

MARVEL MASTERWORKS®
THE MIGHTY THOR®
VOLUME 6



MARVEL

MARVEL MASTERWORKS
PRESENTS

THE MIGHTY THOR

VOLUME 6

COLLECTING

THE MIGHTY THOR Nos. 141-152

STAN LEE • JACK KIRBY



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THE MIGHTY THOR Nos. 141-152

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Penciler: **Jack Kirby**

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Bill Everett (No. 143)

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Wil Glass (Covers)

Art Reconstruction: Dale Crain (Nos. 141-145, 147, 148, 150-152)
Chris Fama (No. 146)
Pacific Rim Graphics (No. 149)
Wil Glass (Covers)

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& John Morrow



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INTRODUCTION

BY MARK EVANIER

It was a great time to be reading *The Mighty Thor*.

It must have been. I can still remember buying these off the rack at Pico Drugs in West Los Angeles in 1967. More than that, I can still remember scurrying to that rack, Tuesday afternoons on the way home from school, wondering what would be there. The Marvels came out unpredictably in our area. Some weeks, they got in one or two; some weeks, four or five. (The company only published ten new super-hero books a month, which at twelve cents apiece set the monetary commitment of being a Marvel fan at a big buck-twenty, slightly more if you also bought *Sgt. Fury* and/or the reprint titles.)

For some reason though, *Thor* was always in the first wave each month. A new issue of *Thor* meant a new month of Marvels.

That was one thing that made the comic special. Another was that Stan Lee and Jack Kirby were operating at the top of their game, which meant you were seeing the best at their best.

Earlier, they'd struggled to find the proper venue for the God of Thunder. Should Thor's exploits all be set on Earth? They were for a while and it was somehow lacking, especially in the area of worthy opponents. Worthy of a Norse God, that is.

Well then, should the tales be set on Asgard? It was a discussion Stan and Jack often had. Asgard meant more wonderment on the pages and a more colorful supporting cast...to say nothing of the fact that Kirby drew the place so darned well. It was tempting to just abandon Thor's life in this world, especially since the mail kept demanding it.

Each month, they discussed having Thor spend more time there, less time here. Each month, Stan would remind Jack—or sometimes, Jack would remind Stan—of the underlying premise: *Thor* was the tale of a god interacting with human beings. “We realized we had to split the difference,” Lee explained in one interview. “Thor the character demanded epics by his very nature. Epics were easy on Asgard. We just had to figure out ways to have epics on Earth.”

In the stories that follow, you see them struggling to find that balance. Just as Thor was torn between the two worlds, so were Lee and Kirby. They'd confer on plotlines, decide to set the next one largely in one plane of existence...then Jack would get to plotting and penciling, and the characters would insist on going to the other. When the pages were delivered to Stan for dialogue application, he'd be surprised...

...but he also understood. You just couldn't tell gods where to live their lives.

A few oddities about these issues are worth a mention here...

There was a “paste-up” cover on #141. Another one was drawn and when they got it all done, Stan didn't like it. It had looked fine in the pencil stage but once it was inked and the lettering was pasted into place, the figure of Replicus looked odd—too odd, he decided. There wasn't time to get a new cover drawn so Sol Brodsky, who was then in charge of production, selected panels from the story and cobbled them together into a new composition. That's Sol's linework you see retouching the main Thor figure so it could be printed larger.

There was a problem with the cover to #147, as well. When Jack drew it, Thor was turned the other

way and it made for an awkward angle. Someone—looks like Marie Severin maybe with Brodsky inking—redrew the Thor figure to turn him a different way.

The insides of #143 find a new name in the credits. Thor's regular inker, Vince Colletta, got started on the issue, took ill and had to hand it back for someone else to do. That someone else turned out to be Bill Everett, best known as the creator of the Sub-Mariner. Colletta inked the cover, most of the first two pages and a few other faces here and there in the Thor story. Everett did everything else and did it, I think, masterfully. Wait'll this reprint series gets to the issues where he took over as regular inker. Jack Kirby art never looked any better than when Everett was inking him.

#145 also featured the last of the Tales of Asgard stories that had appeared in the rear of the comic since #97. Why did they cease? A couple of reasons. One was that Kirby had run out of pages. Most of the Tales of Asgard stories had been inspired by a small, tattered paperback book Jack had of famous Norse legends. Each month when it came time to do another Tale of Asgard, Jack hauled out the book, flipped to the next page and extracted some nugget of inspiration to turn into a five-page comic book story. He had simply come to the end of the book; ergo, no more Tales of Asgard.

The other reason was that Stan was looking for a place to run some tales of The Inhumans, who were then being groomed for their own comic. The following month, they took over the space in the rear of *Thor* where Tales of Asgard had appeared. Those are not reprinted in this volume but should be reprinted somewhere.

Lastly, a personal note. Every Marvel comic of the day contained Stan's monthly Bullpen Bulletins page with news from the world of Marvel. I first read that month's Bullpen page in *Thor* #141, the first issue in this collection.

On that page, a young reader suggested that there be "Hallowed Ranks" of Marveldom. For instance, if you got a letter printed, you attained the rank of QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer) or if you won a No-Prize, he suggested, you won the rank of TB (True Believer). Stan liked the idea and ran with it, later instituting slightly different ranks...and for years after, many who wrote in to the letter pages would proudly identify themselves accordingly.

Who was the 15-year-old reader who proposed such a thing? Give you a hint: In forty years, he's progressed all the way from writing that letter to writing this foreword.

I'm proud to be here because these are some of my favorite comics. It's great to see Stan Lee and Jack Kirby working at their peak, nailing issue after issue with the kind of powerful, innovative fantasy that they did so well. They couldn't keep their gods in one world when the gods wanted to be in the other...

...but they could do just about anything else. As you're about to see.

Mark EVANIER
2007

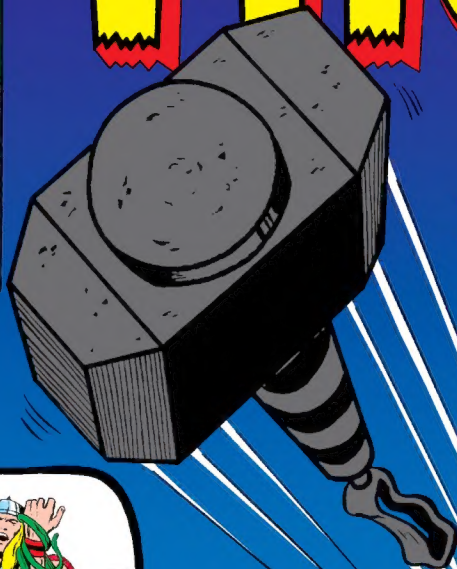
Mark Evanier has written hundreds of comic books (including Groo the Wanderer for 25 years) as well as TV shows and articles about both fields. He has a new book out on his friend and one-time employer, Jack Kirby—Kirby, King of Comics from Harry N. Abrams. And he lives in Los Angeles in a house with more comics than you can possibly imagine.



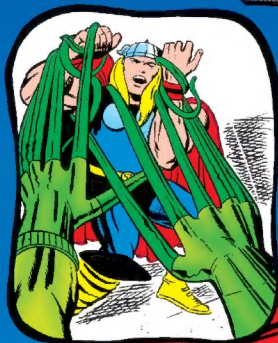
MARVEL
COMICS GROUP
12¢ 141
IND. JUNE

THE MIGHTY THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY



**WHO IS...
REPLICUS?**



THE MIGHTY THOR!

"THE WRATH OF REPLICUS"

FEATURING:
THE MURDEROUS MENACE
OF MOB-LEADER
SLUGGER SYKES!

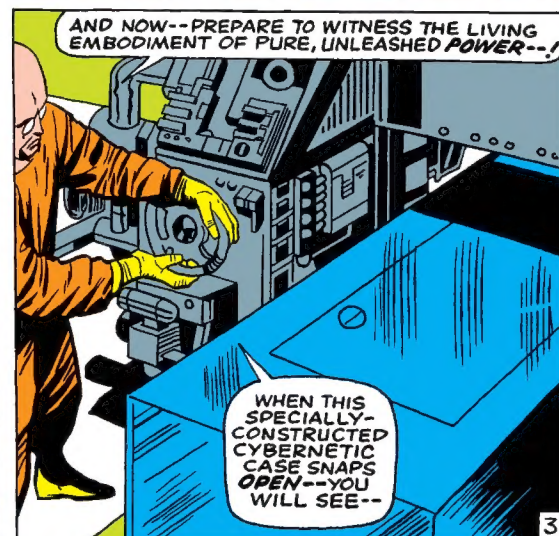
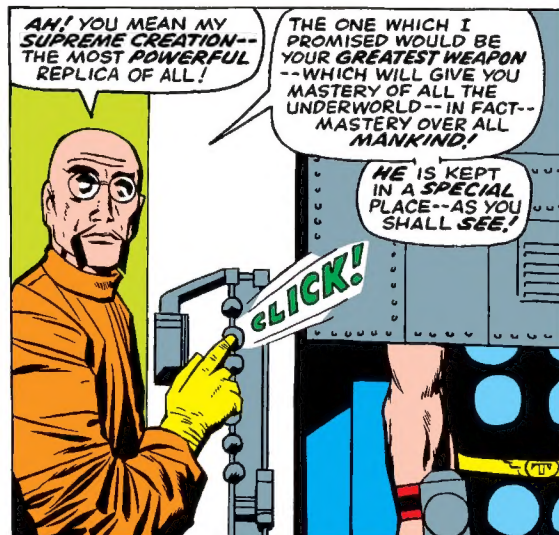
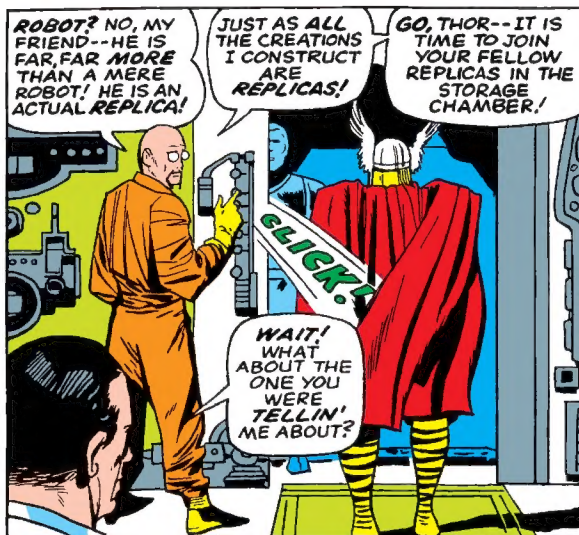
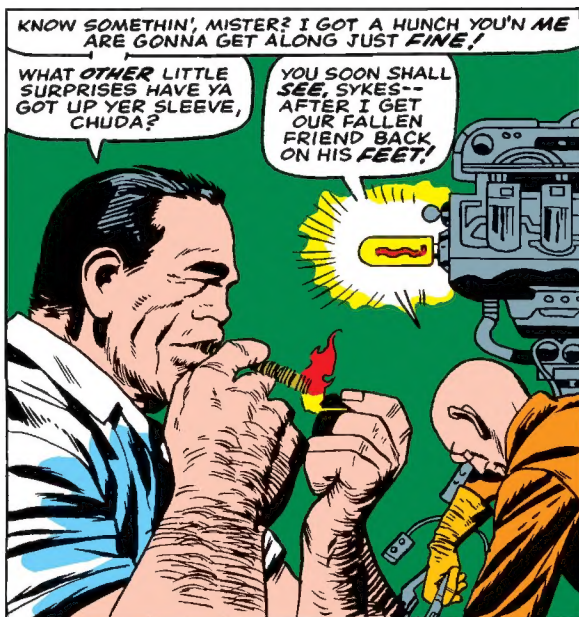


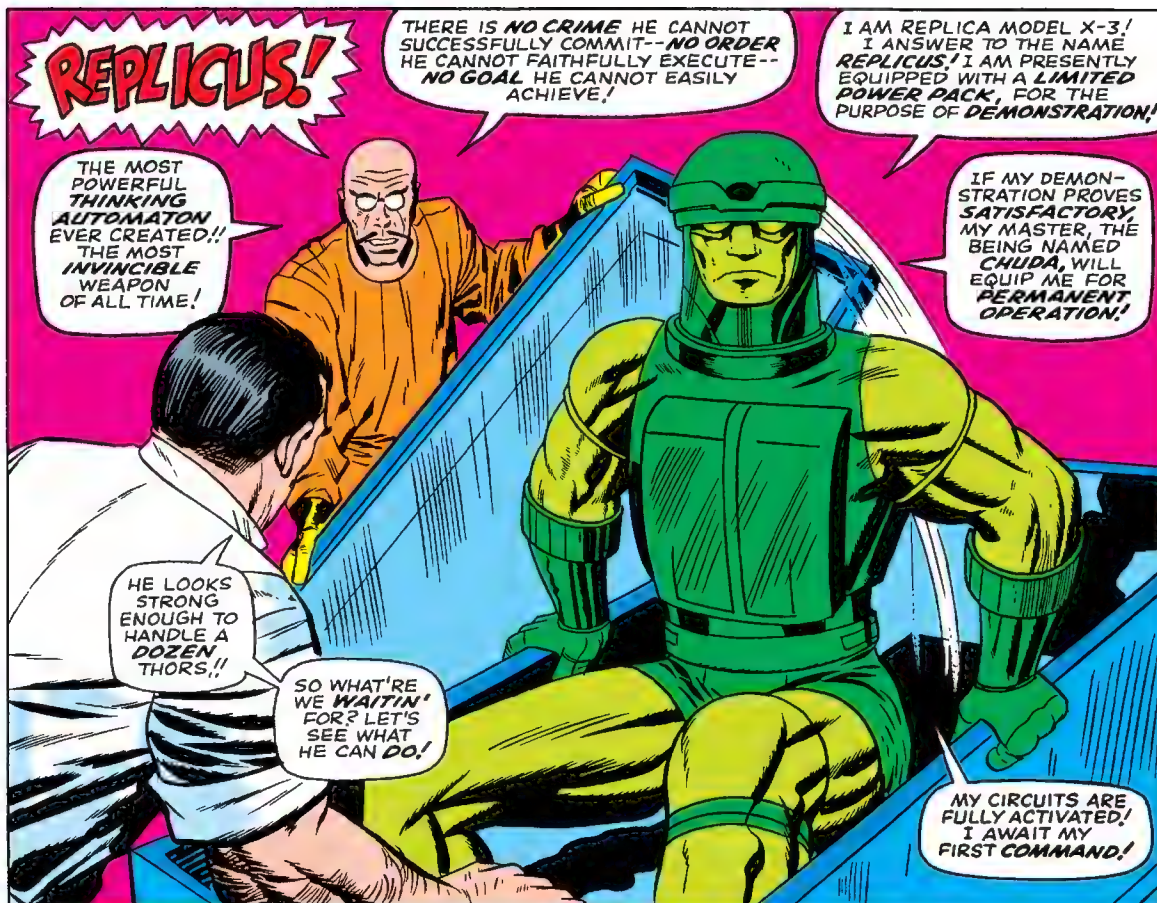
A DAZZLING
**STAN and JACK
LEE and KIRBY**
DRAMA-IN-DEPTH!

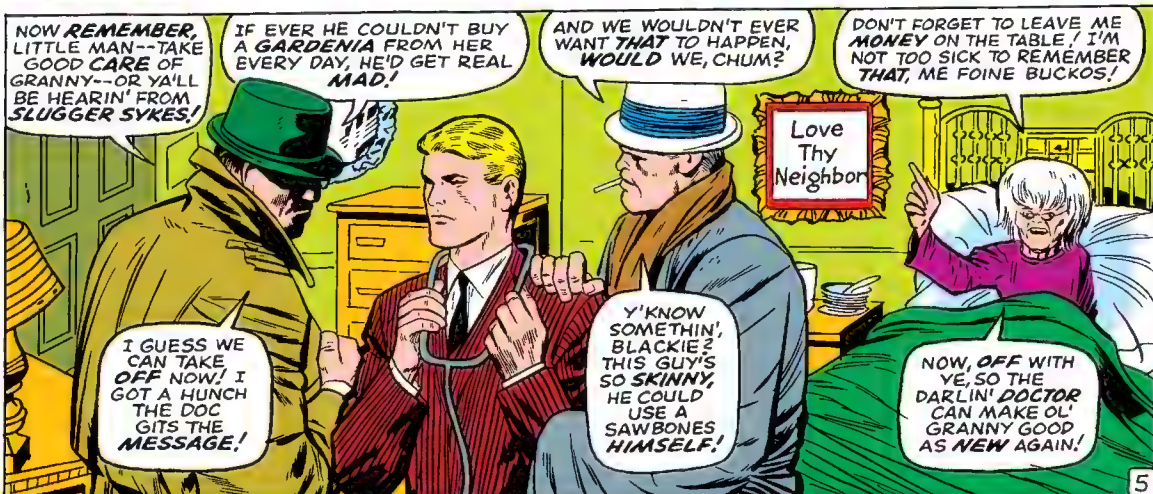
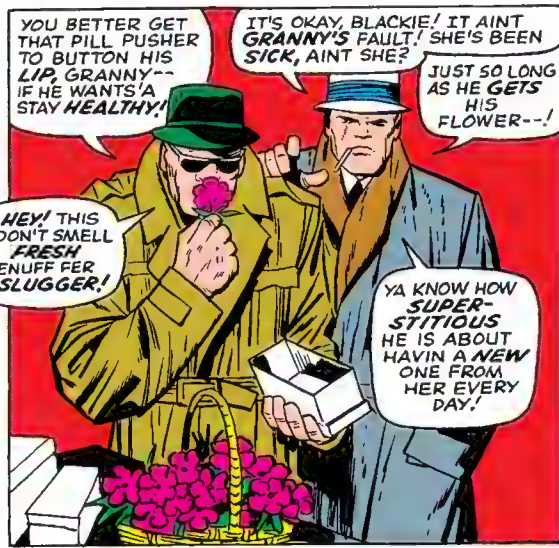
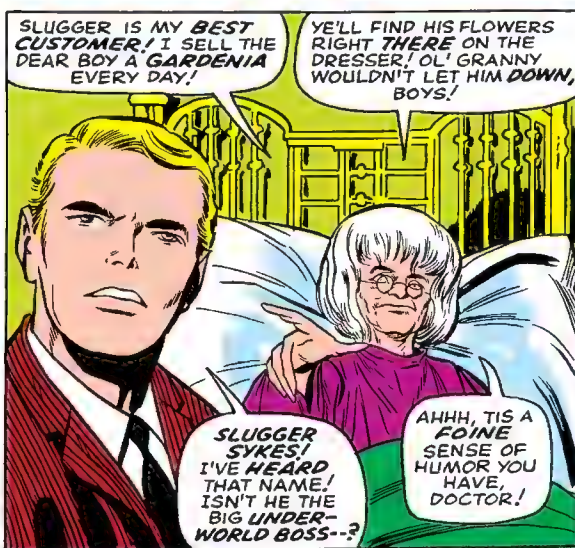
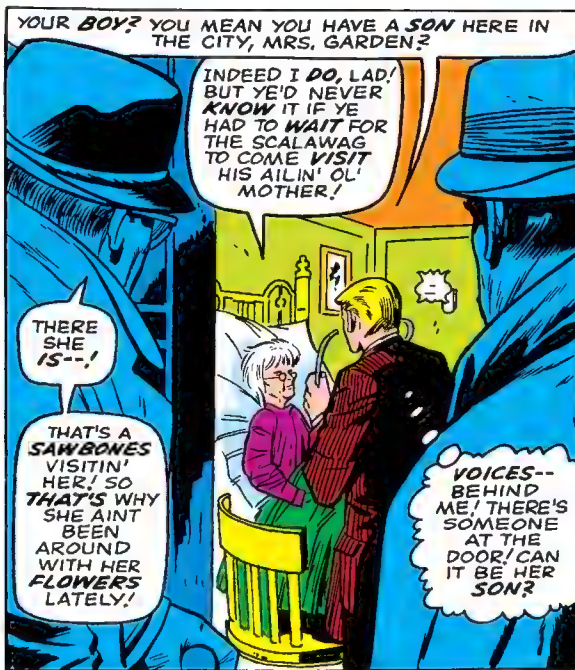
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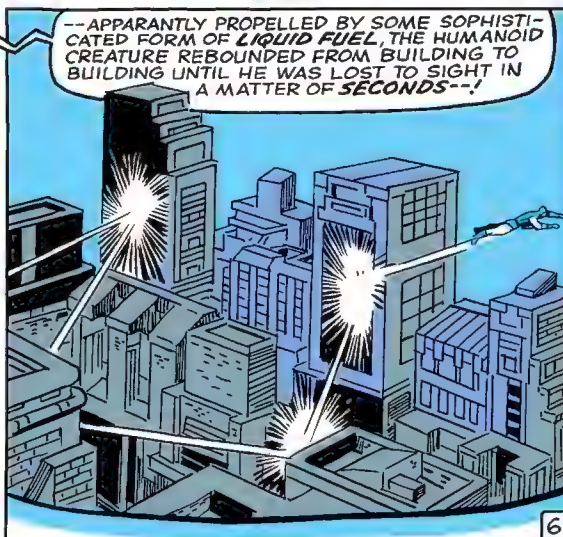
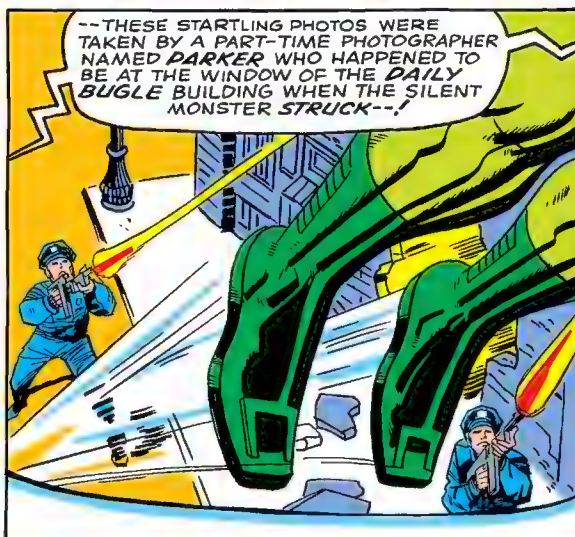
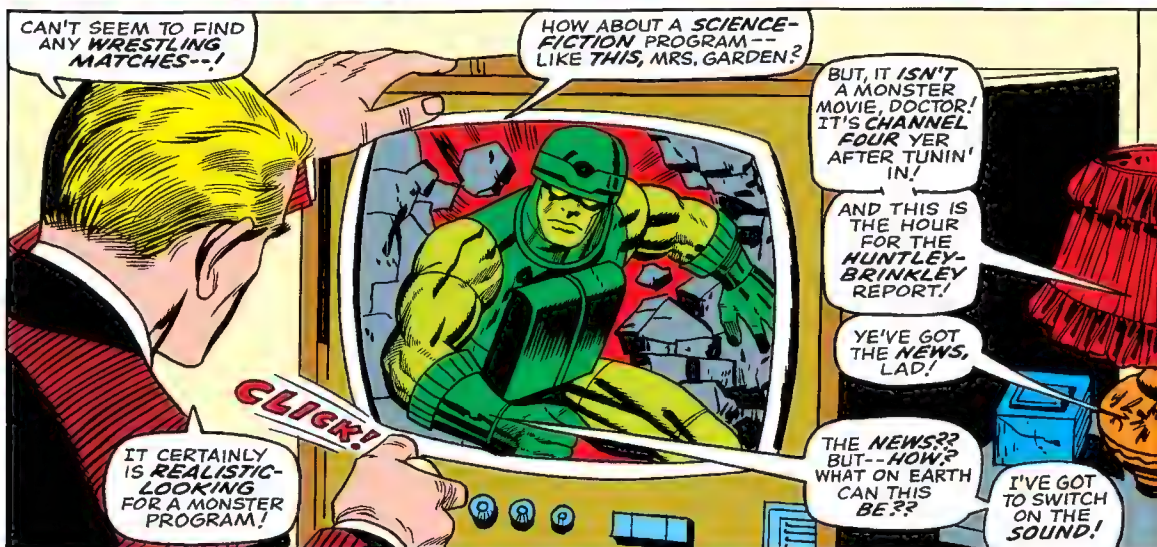
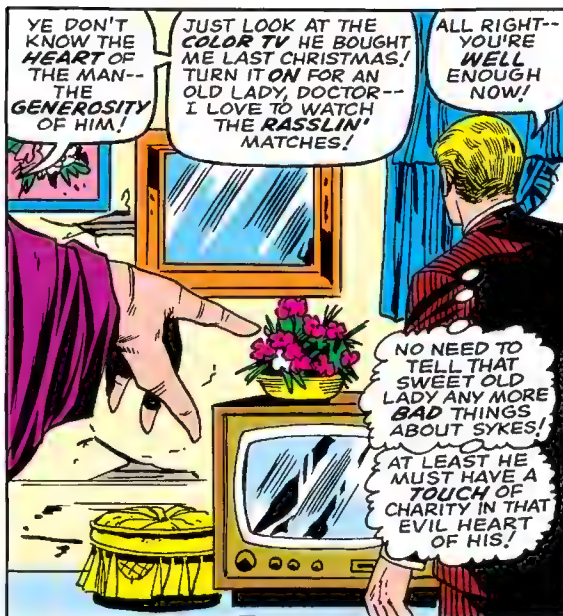
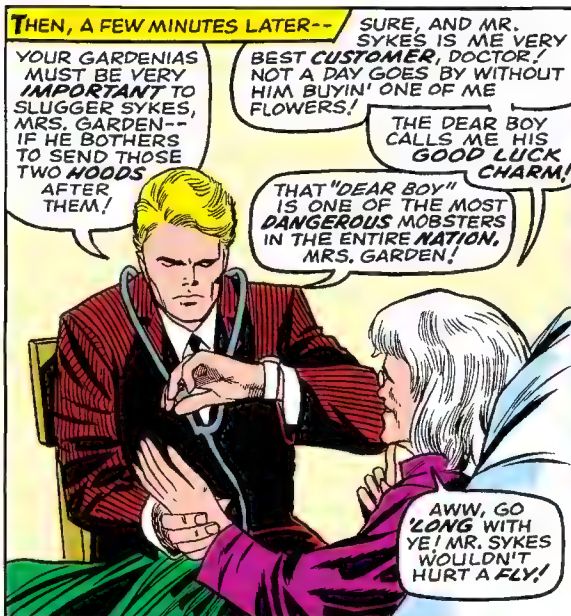
LETTERED BY:
ART SIMEK

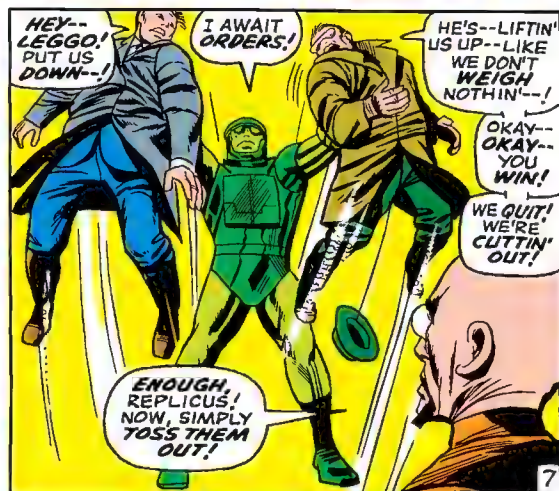
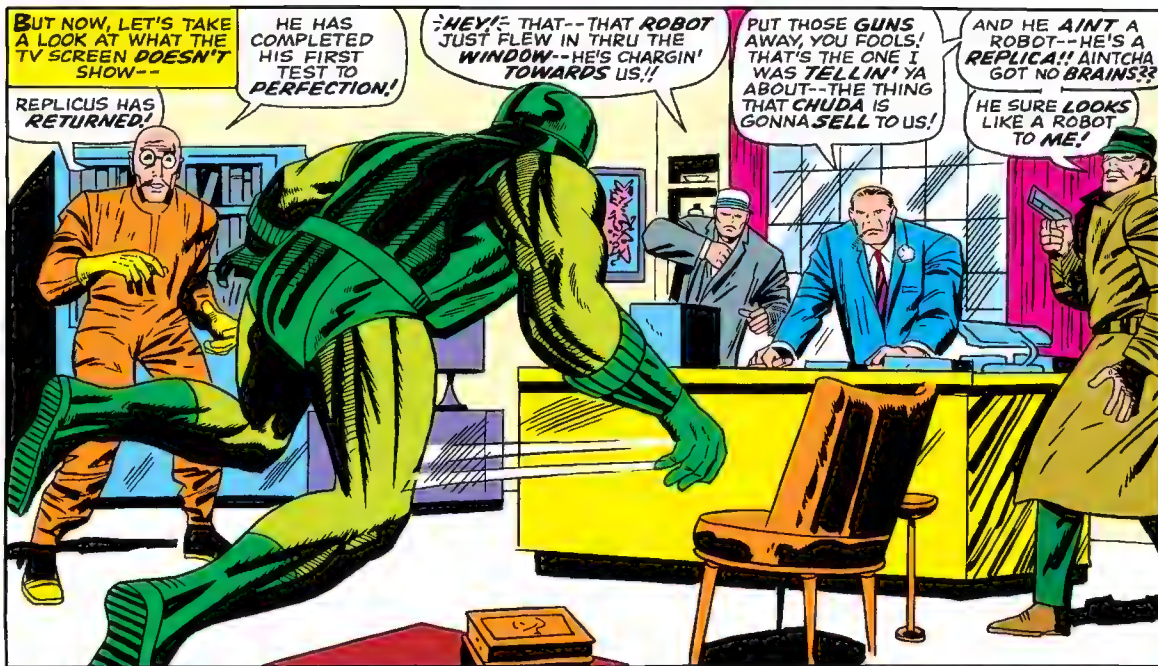




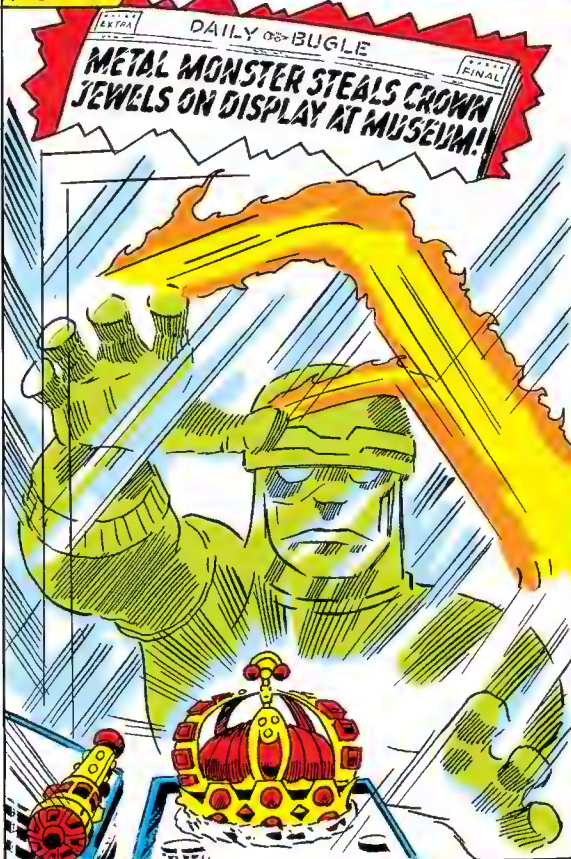




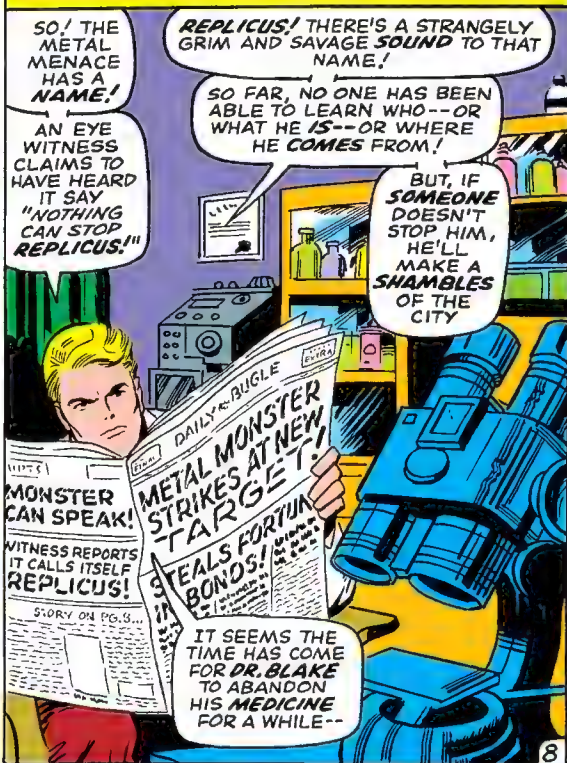




AND, THROUOT THE CITY, IN THE STORMY DAYS THAT FOLLOW--



AND, BACK AT THE OFFICE OF DR. DON BLAKE -- MINUTES AFTER HIS LAST PATIENT HAS DEPARTED--

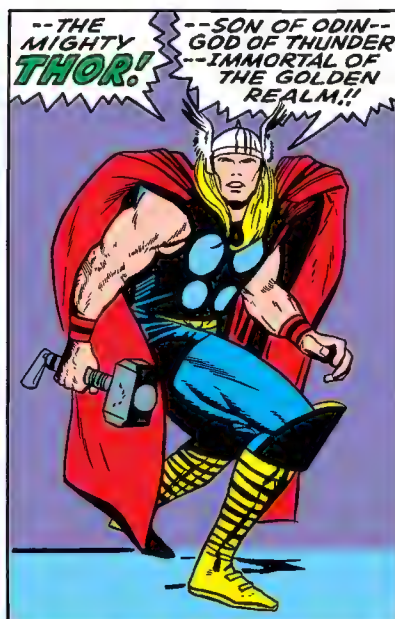




THERE'S A FAR MORE **POWERFUL** REMEDY AVAILABLE TO MANKIND-- AND ONE TAP OF MY ENCHANTED **WALKING STICK** IS ALL THAT'S NEEDED!

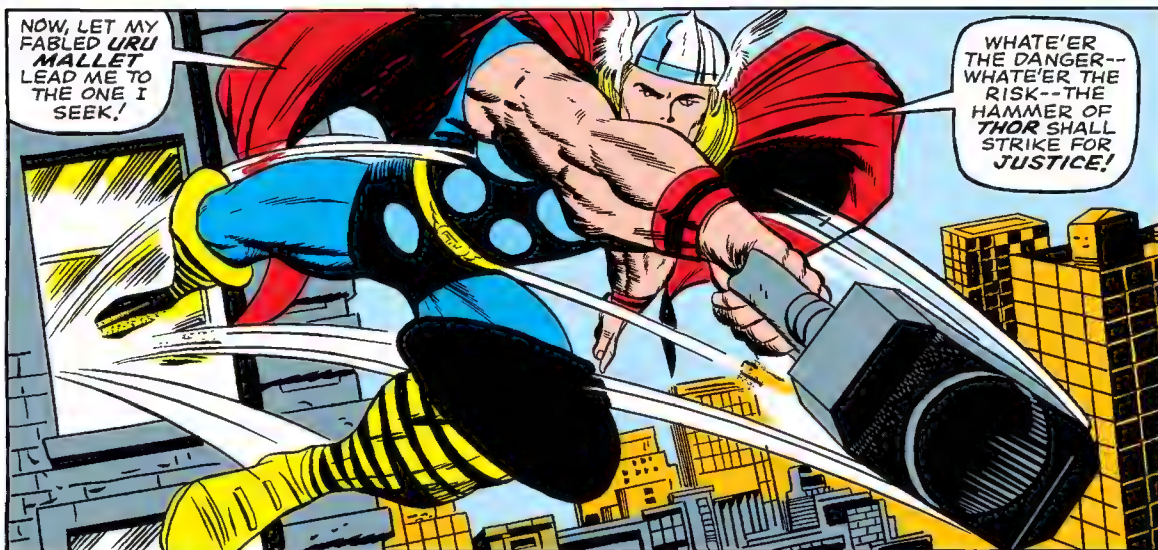


IN ORDER TO SUMMON--



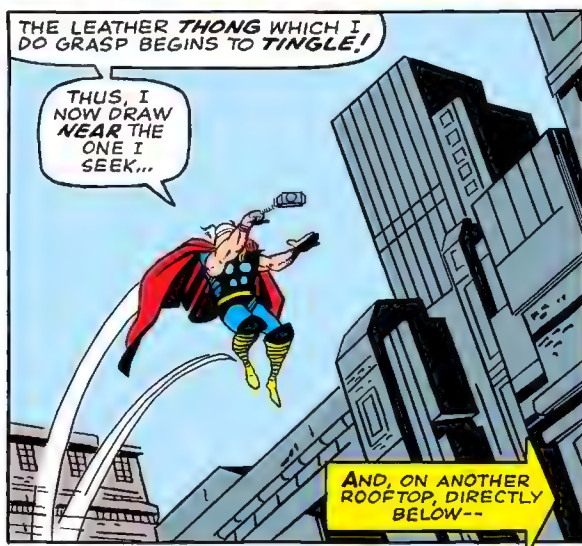
--THE **MIGHTY THOR!**

--SON OF ODIN--
GOD OF THUNDER
--IMMORTAL OF THE GOLDEN REALM!!



NOW, LET MY FABLED **URLI MALLET** LEAD ME TO THE ONE I SEEK!

WHATE'ER THE DANGER--
WHATE'ER THE RISK--THE HAMMER OF THOR SHALL STRIKE FOR JUSTICE!



THE LEATHER **THONG** WHICH I DO GRASP BEGINS TO **TINGLE!**

THUS, I NOW DRAW **NEAR** THE ONE I SEEK...

AND, ON ANOTHER ROOFTOP, DIRECTLY BELOW--

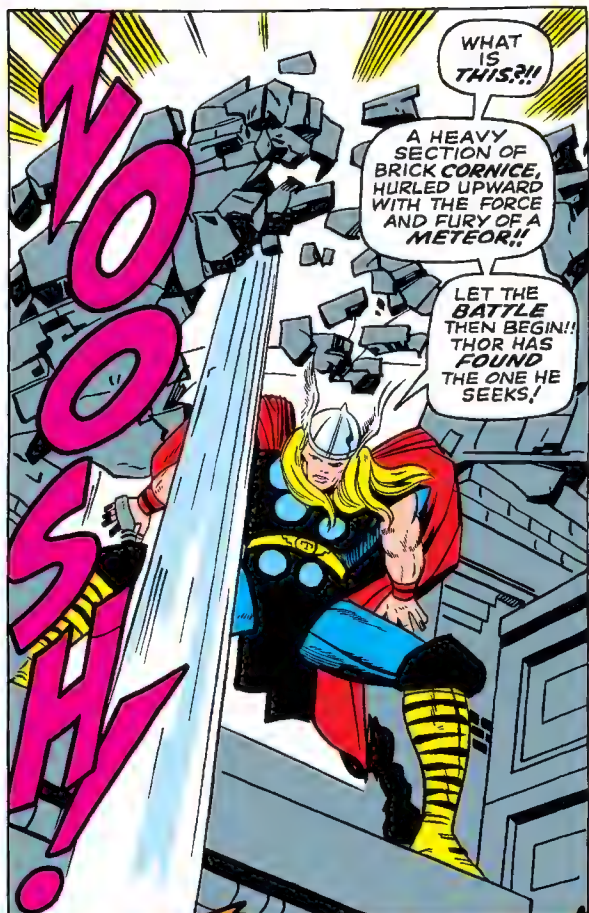


MY BUILT-IN **SENSORS** TELL ME AN **ENEMY** DRAWS NEAR!

WITH ONE MERE GRASP OF MY **FORGED-STEEL FINGERS** I WILL SEIZE A PORTION OF THIS SOLID BRICK LEDGE--

AND THEN... **REPLICUS** WILL STRIKE!

CRUNCH!



WHAT IS THIS?!!

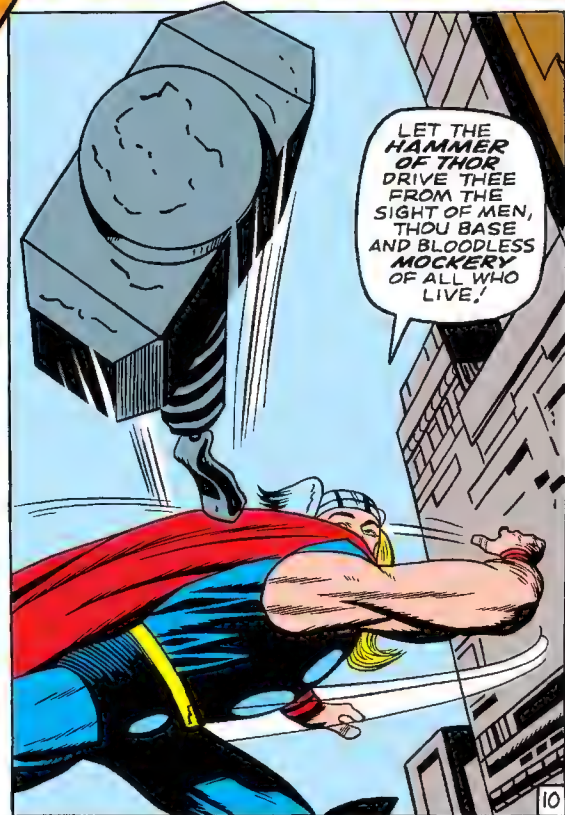
A HEAVY SECTION OF BRICK CORNICE, HURLED UPWARD WITH THE FORCE AND FURY OF A METEOR!!

LET THE BATTLE THEN BEGIN!! THOR HAS FOUND THE ONE HE SEEKS!

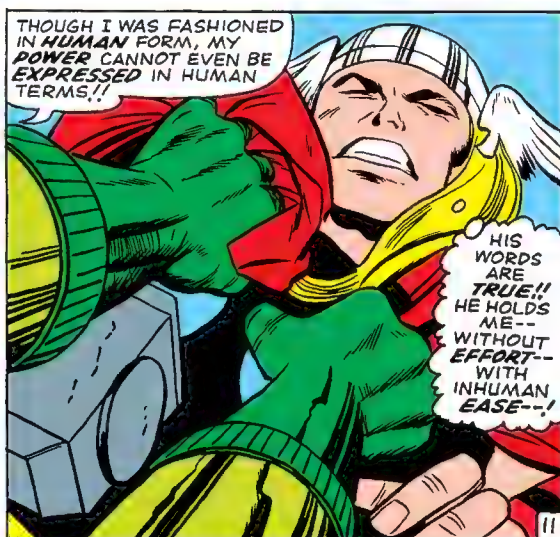
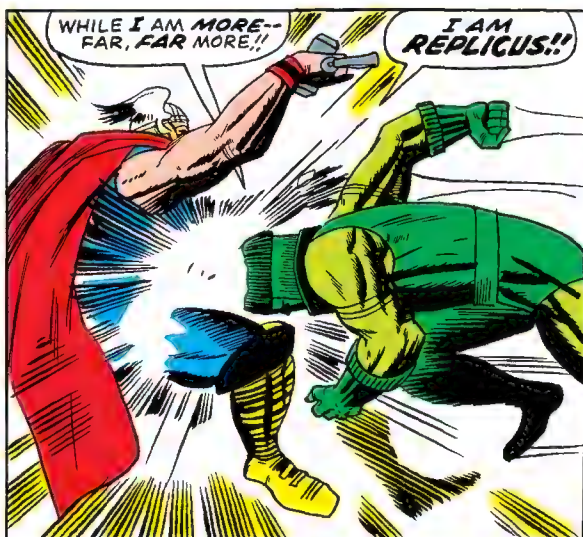
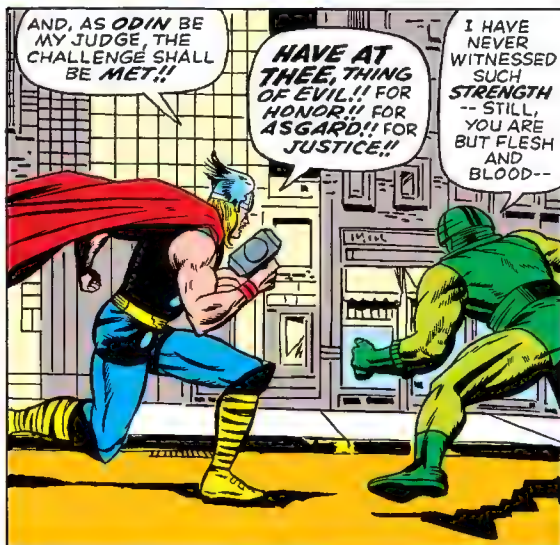
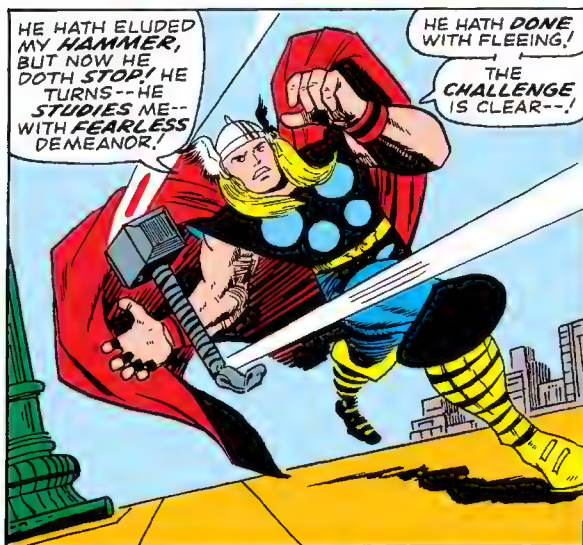
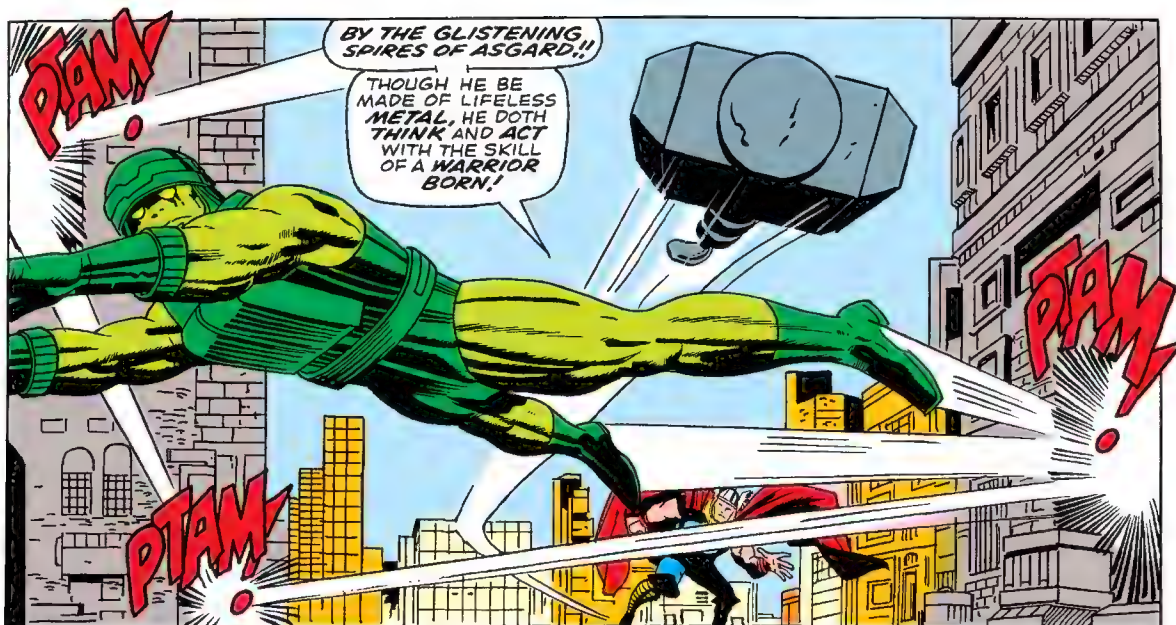


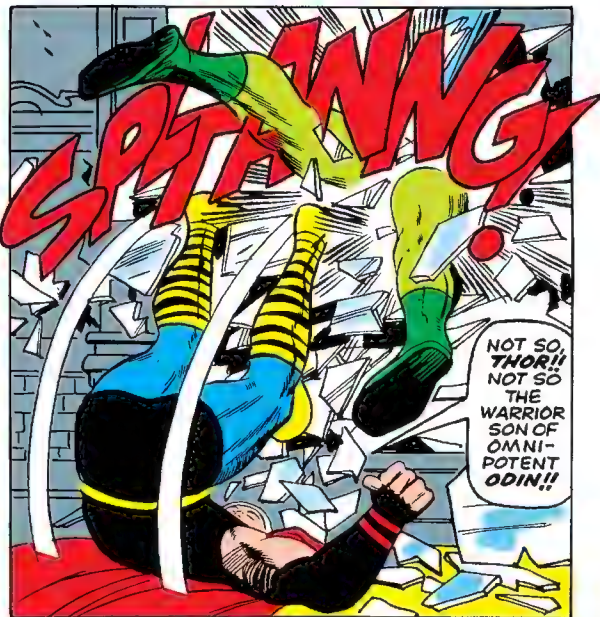
ROBBER, MURDERER, AND WORSE-- BEGONE!

THERE IS NO PLACE ON EARTH FOR THE LIKES OF THEE!



LET THE HAMMER OF THOR DRIVE THEE FROM THE SIGHT OF MEN, THOU BASE AND BLOODLESS MOCKERY OF ALL WHO LIVE!





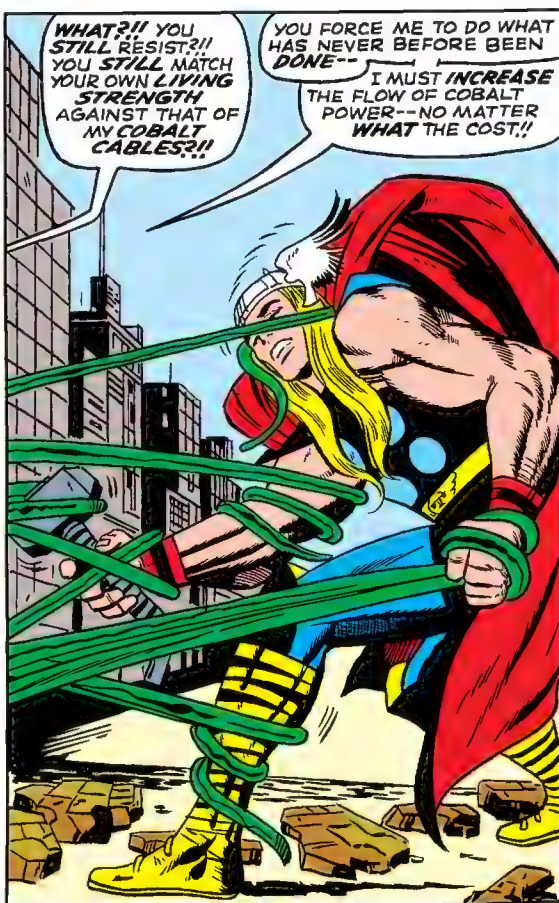


NOW FEEL THE CRUSHING POWER OF MY MATCHLESS **RETRACTI-GRIP** FINGERS--

FINGERS WHICH CAN PERFORM **ANY** TASK-- FINGERS WHOSE INVINCIBLE **COBALT CABLES** CAN BE SHATTERED BY NO FORCE IN ALL THE **UNIVERSE!**

EACH CABLE --AS TIGHT-- AND UN-YIELDING-- AS THE GRIP--OF **HERCULES!!**

NO MATTER! **THOR SHALL PREVAIL!**



WHAT?!! YOU **STILL RESIST?!!** YOU **STILL MATCH YOUR OWN LIVING STRENGTH** AGAINST THAT OF MY **COBALT CABLES?!!**

YOU FORCE ME TO DO WHAT HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN **DONE--**

I MUST **INCREASE** THE FLOW OF **COBALT POWER--NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!!**

MEANWHILE, SO **TITANIC** A TABLEAU CANNOT HOPE TO GO **UNNOTICED!** WITHIN A MATTER OF MINUTES, THE EYES OF THE **WORLD** ARE FOCUSED UPON THE CATAclysmic SCENE OF BATTLE--

--BRINGING YOU A SPECIAL TELECAST, DIRECTLY FROM THE SITE OF COMBAT--

WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE POLICE ARE PREPARING TO **MOVE IN** AND TAKE **DIRECT ACTION** IF THOR SHOULD **FALL--!**

IF MIGHTY **THOR** CAN'T STOP THAT **ROBOT**, WHAT CAN MERE MORTAL **MEN** DO AGAINST HIM?!!

I SAY WE SHOULDN'T WAIT ANY **LONGER!** WE OUGHTTA MOVE IN **NOW!**

THAT'S HOW WE **ALL** FEEL-- BUT, WE HAVE OUR **ORDERS!**

LOOK! OVER THERE --LOOK WHAT THEY'RE PREPARING TO **USE!**

GET THOSE **RECOILLESS RIFLES** LOADED WITH **SHOCK MISSILES--AND DO IT FAST!!**

--DOESN'T LOOK AS IF THOR CAN **HOLD OUT** MUCH LONGER!!

WHEN YOU **FIRE**, BE SURE IT'S **POINT BLANK RANGE!** YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO **MISS!**

THEN, AFTER FIRING, **TAKE OFF!** THOSE ARMORED SUITS WON'T HELP YOU MUCH IF **REPLICUS** GETS AHOOLD OF YOU!

WE'RE ALL **SET--** BUT, IT LOOKS LIKE THERE'S **STILL** PLENTY OF FIGHT LEFT IN **THOR!!**

BUT, OTHER EYES ARE ALSO WATCHING THE STRANGE, BLUDGEONING BATTLE--

HAH! WHILE THOR WAS DISENGAGING THE CABLES FROM HIS ARM, REPLICUS SEIZED THE HAMMER!

THEY SAY NO HUMAN CAN EVER LIFT THAT HAMMER--!

BUT, REPLICUS HAS THE EDGE OVER ANY HUMAN! JUST LOOK AT 'IM!

I SEEN ENUFF! I'M SOLD ON THAT HUNK A TIN! I'LL BUY 'IM! NAME YER PRICE, CHUDA! HE'S GOTTA BE MINE!

MY PRICE WILL BE REASONABLE-- ON ONE CONDITION--

YOU MUST HELP ME SELL SIMILAR MODELS TO OTHER MOB LEADERS THROUTH THE NATION! IS IT AGREED??

HUH? YOU MEAN YOU WANNA SELL OTHER ONES?!!

I DON'T GET IT! WHY DO YOU WANNA DO THAT? I CAN PAY YA ENUFF JUST FOR REPLICUS TO MAKE YA RICH!

YOUR MONEY ALONE DOES NOT INTEREST ME! I HAVE OTHER AIMS-- A FAR MORE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE TO ACHIEVE--

WHEN I AM DONE, THIS ENTIRE CITY, THIS ENTIRE LAND-- WILL BE OVERCOME BY CHAOS-- AND BY FEAR!

I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT, MISTER!

IT DOES NOT MATTER TO ME WHAT YOU LIKE!

YOU ARE NO MORE THAN A PAWN IN MY FAR-REACHING MASTER PLAN!

YOU PUNK-- I THOUGHT I SMELLED A RAT!

YOU'RE NOT OUT TO MAKE A FAST, CROOKED BUCK LIKE I AM-- YOU'RE PLAYIN' FOR DIFFERENT STAKES!!

YOU'RE JUST A ROTTEN, LOW-DOWN SPY!!

MEBBE I AINT NO FLAG-WAVIN' PATRIOT-- AND NO ONE'S GONNA PIN ANY MEDALS FER GOOD CITIZENSHIP ON ME, EITHER-- BUT I'LL TELL YA ONE THING--

NO CRUMMY, TWO-FACED ENEMY AGENT IS GONNA MAKE A PATSY OUTTA SLUGGER SYKES!!

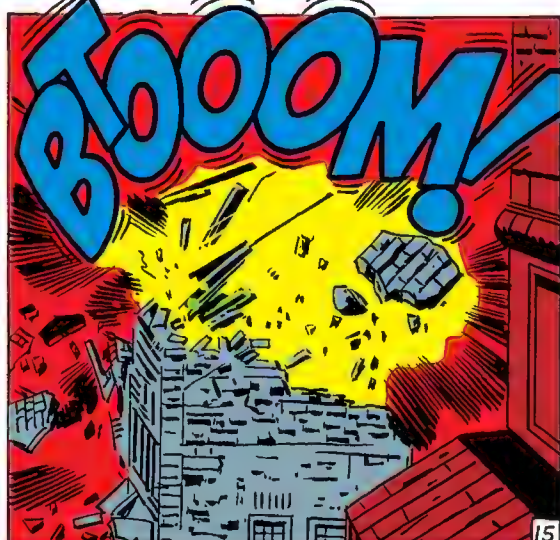
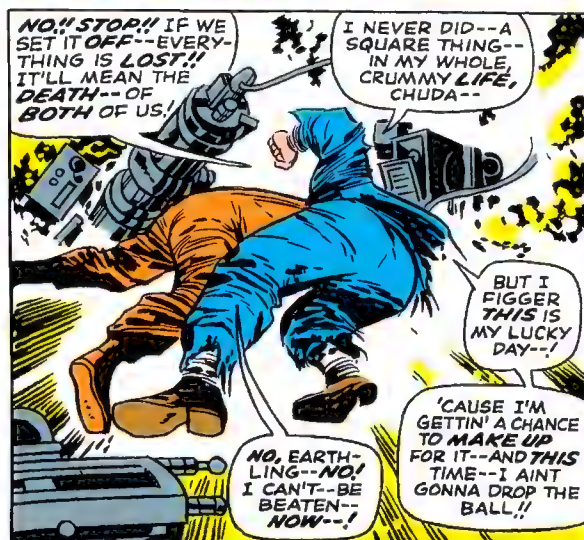
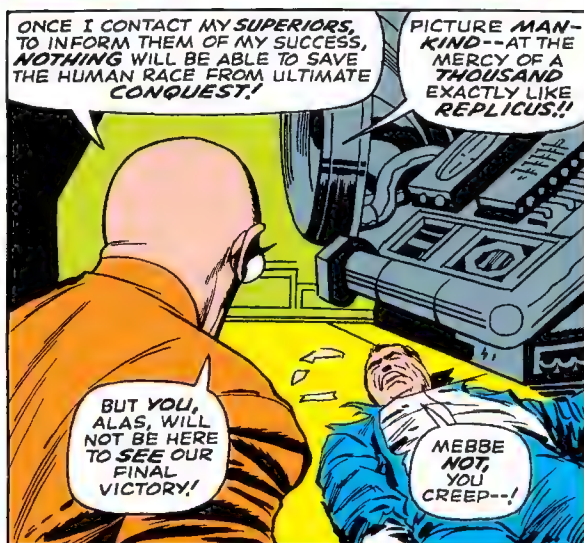
YOU BRAINLESS, BABBLING FOOL!! YOU THINK ME A SPY FROM SOME OTHER WORTHLESS NATION ON THIS PRIMITIVE PLANET OF YOURS??

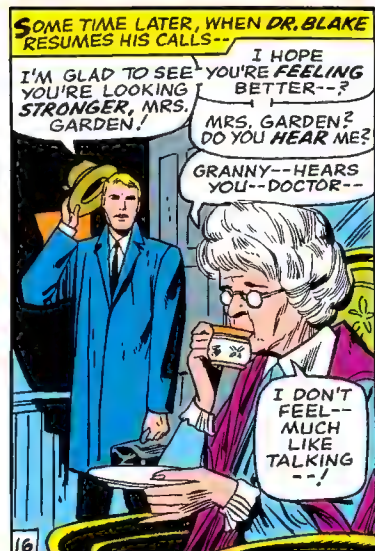
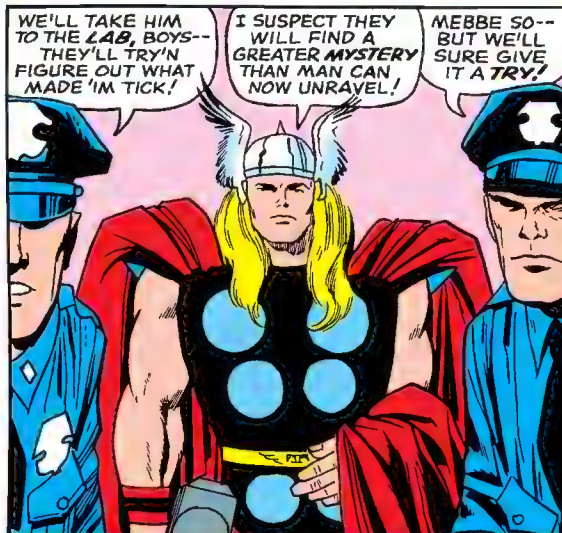
DO YOU THINK ANY POWER HERE ON EARTH COULD HAVE CREATED THE MAJESTY OF REPLICUS?!!

THOSE WHO SENT ME HERE ARE FAR GREATER, FAR WISER, FAR SUPERIOR TO ANY MERE EARTHLING!

HEY! WHAT'S THAT YER REACHIN' FOR--?!!

SOME KINDA NUTTY-LOOKIN' GUN! YOU AINT USIN' THAT AGAINST ME!!





"ALIBAR AND THE FORTY DEMONS!"

INTO THE VERY HEART OF FABLED **XANDU** STRIDES MIGHTY **THOR**, IN COMPANY WITH **FANDRAL**, THE DASHING--**VOLSTAGG**, THE VOCI--FEROUS--AND **HOGUN**, THE GRIM--SEEKING TO BATTLE **HOGUN**'S SWORN ENEMY, THE MERCILESS **MOGUL**, OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!
(AND AWAAAAAY THOU GOEST--)

SEE HOW THE MASSES TREMBLE AT THE SIGHT OF VALIANT **VOLSTAGG**!

LEAD ON, NOBLE **HOGUN**! THE FLASHING BLADE OF **FANDRAL** IS EVER AT THY SIDE!

WARRIORS OF **ASGARD** WITHIN THE HIDDEN REALM! VERILY, WE ARE **UNDONE**!

'TIS TRULY **XANDU**! WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL AT LAST!

SHOW THYSELF, **MOGUL**--THOU PRINCE OF **INFAMY**! **HOGUN** HATH COME TO ERASE THEE FROM THE MEMORY OF MAN!

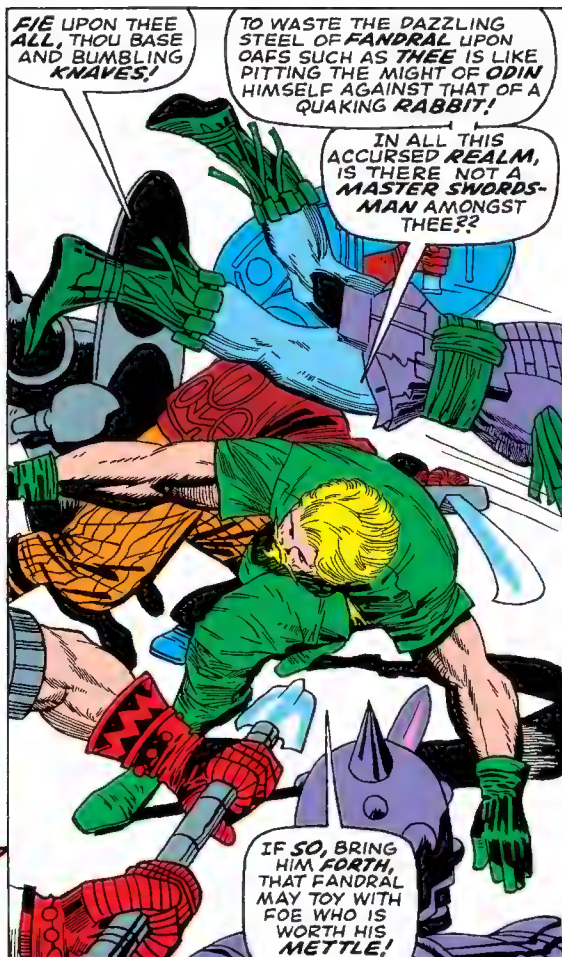
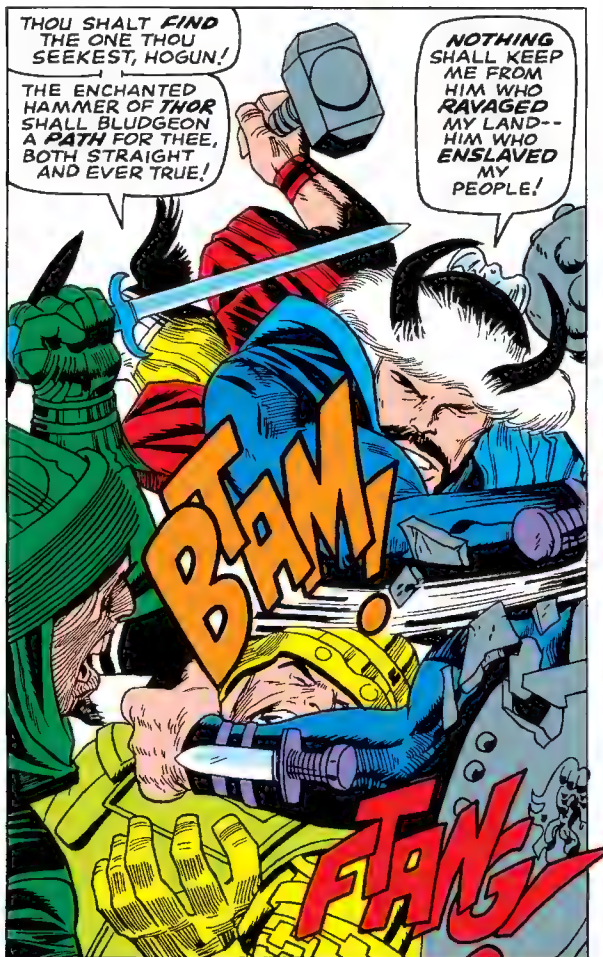
HAIL YE ALL, THIS **STAN LEE** and **JACK KIRBY** COMMODIOUS CREATION!

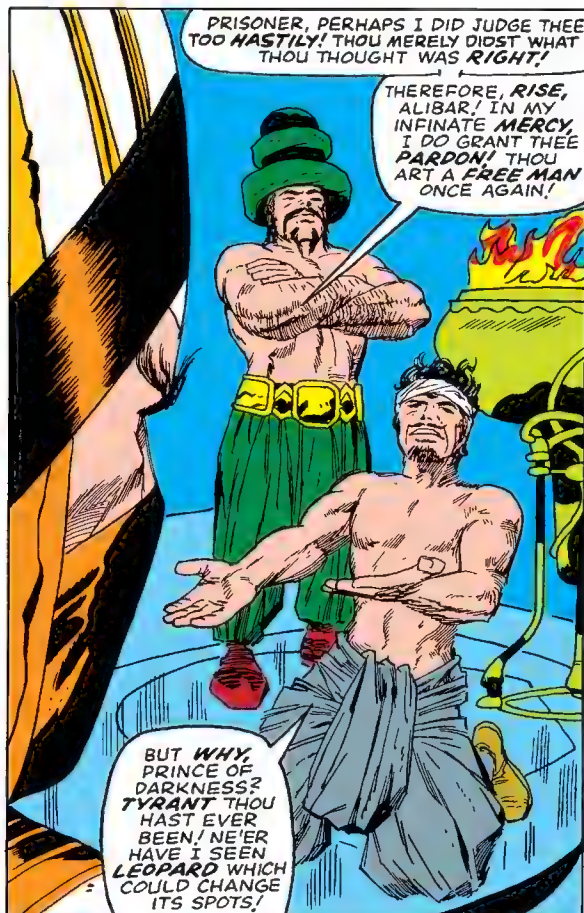
INKING: VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERING: ART SIMEK

WE'RE WELL AWARE THAT THIS PAGE ALONE IS WORTH THE PRICE OF OUR MAG, BUT THERE'S STILL **MORE** TO COME, O THRICE BLESSED ONE--



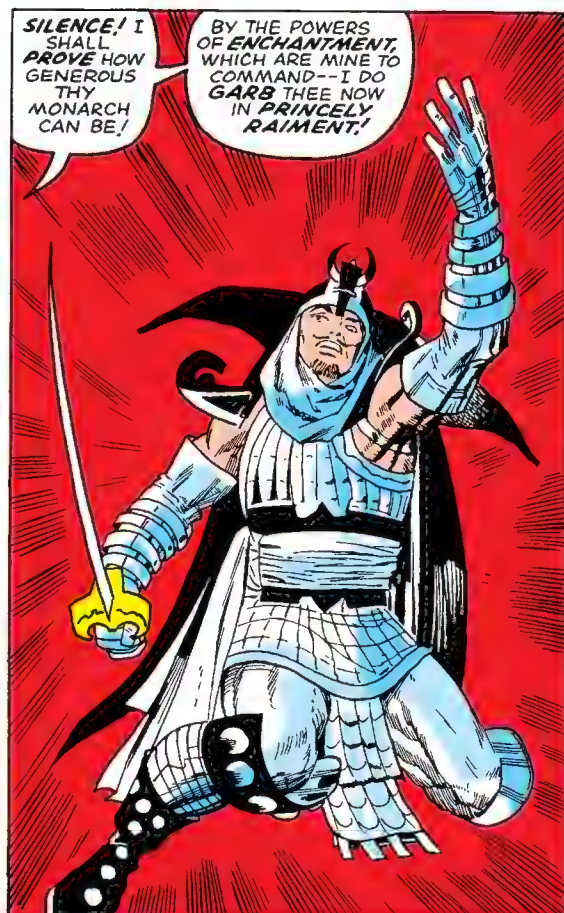




PRISONER, PERHAPS I DID JUDGE THEE TOO HASTILY! THOU MERELY DIDST WHAT THOU THOUGHT WAS RIGHT!

THEREFORE, RISE, ALIBAR, IN MY INFINITE MERCY I DO GRANT THEE PARDON! THOU ART A FREE MAN ONCE AGAIN!

BUT WHY, PRINCE OF DARKNESS? TYRANT THOU HAST EVER BEEN, NE'ER HAVE I SEEN LEOPARD WHICH COULD CHANGE ITS SPOTS!



SILENCE! I SHALL PROVE HOW GENEROUS THY MONARCH CAN BE!

BY THE POWERS OF ENCHANTMENT, WHICH ARE MINE TO COMMAND--I DO GARB THEE NOW IN PRINCELY RAIMENT!



I DO NOT COMPREHEND! THOU HAST TRANSFORMED A PENNILESS THIEF INTO A ROYAL GLADIATOR!

PERHAPS 'TIS MERELY A KINGLY WHIM, BUT, IT MATTERS NOT!

WHAT DOES MATTER IS THAT A GALLANT WARRIOR MUST BE ASTRIDE A PROUD BATTLE STEED--AND SO SHALL IT BE--!

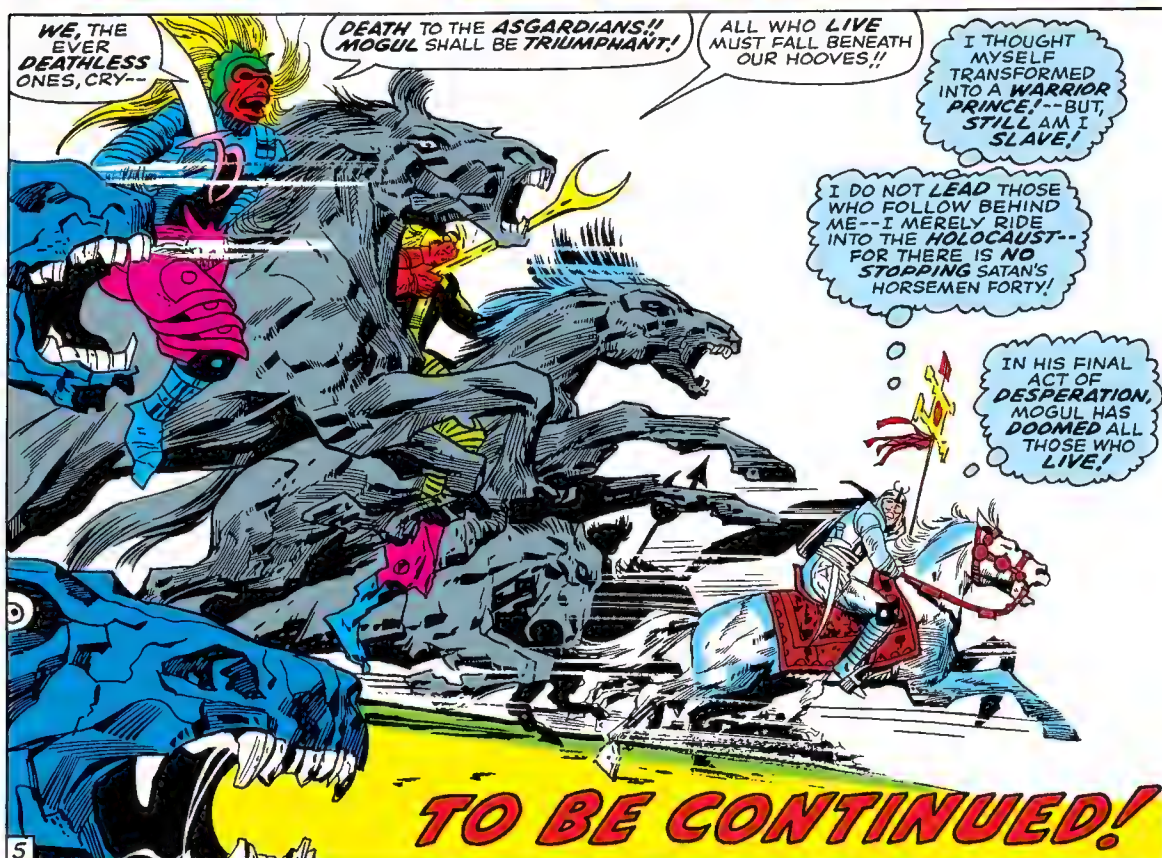


THY WIZARDRY IS BEYOND BELIEF!! BUT STILL FOR THY PURPOSE DO I SEARCH--IN VAIN!

MY PURPOSE IS SIMPLE!

I HAVE RESPECT FOR THY COURAGE--AND IT DOTH PLEASE ME TO REWARD THEE FOR THE CONCERN THOU HAST SHOWN FOR THE POOR AMONG MY SUBJECTS!

THEREFORE, I CALL THEE KNIGHT--AND THOU ARE COMMISSIONED TO BATTLE THE ENEMIES OF THE REALM!





**MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP**

12¢
IND.

142
JULY

**THE
MIGHTY**

THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

FROM THE EDGE
OF INFINITY HE COMES,
POSSESSING ALL
THE BLOCK-BUSTING
POWERS OF

**THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR!**



**"THE
SCOURGE
OF THE
SUPER-
SKRULL!"**

THE MIGHTY THOR!

"THE SCOURGE OF THE SUPER SKRULL!"

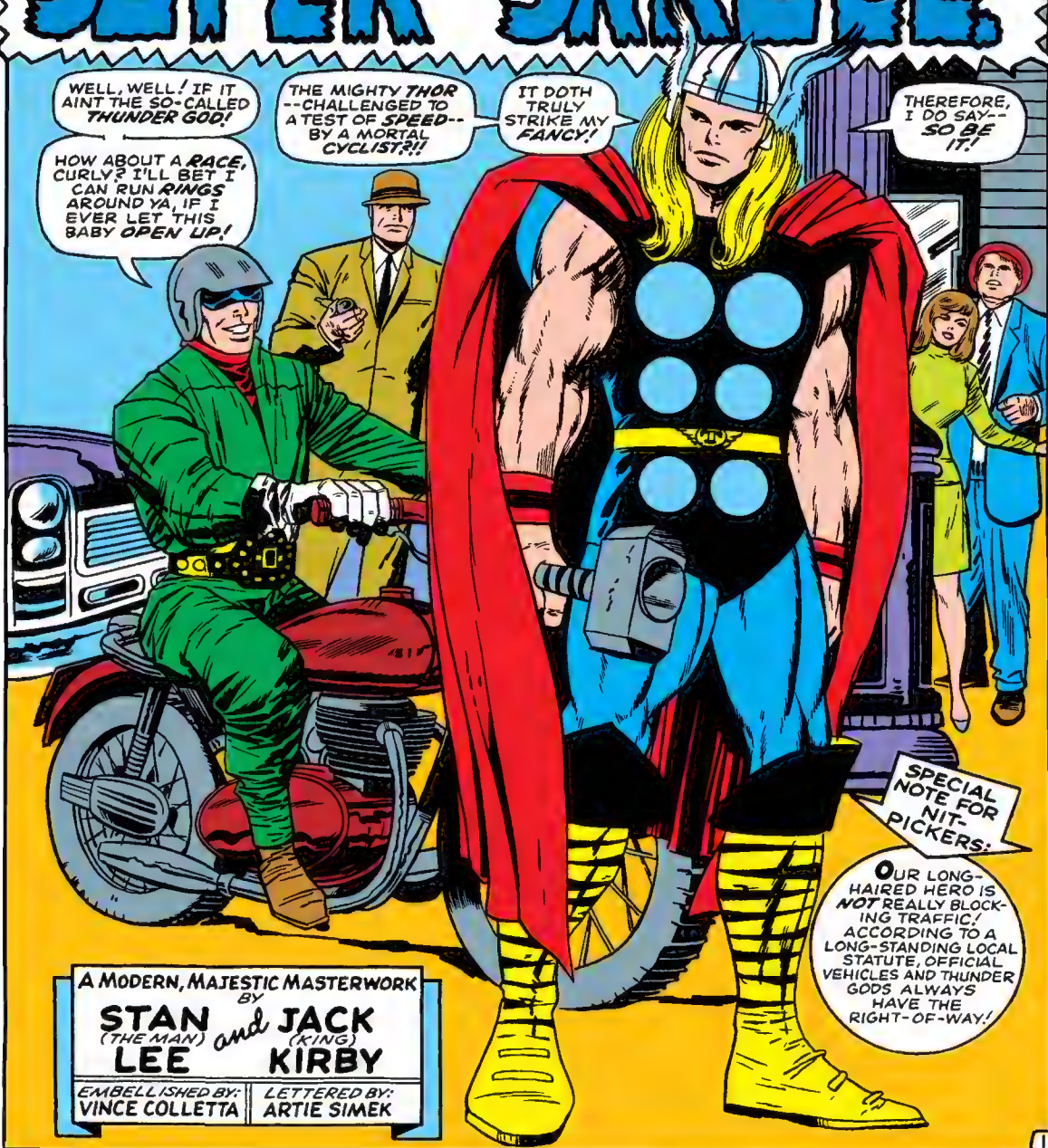
WELL, WELL! IF IT
AIN'T THE SO-CALLED
THUNDER GOD!

HOW ABOUT A **RACE**,
CURLY? I'LL BET I
CAN RUN **RINGS**
AROUND YA, IF I
EVER LET THIS
BABY OPEN UP!

THE MIGHTY THOR
--CHALLENGED TO
A TEST OF **SPEED**--
BY A MORTAL
CYCLIST?!!

IT DOTH
TRULY
STRIKE MY
FANCY!

THEREFORE,
I DO SAY--
**SO BE
IT!**



**SPECIAL
NOTE FOR
NIT-
PICKERS:**

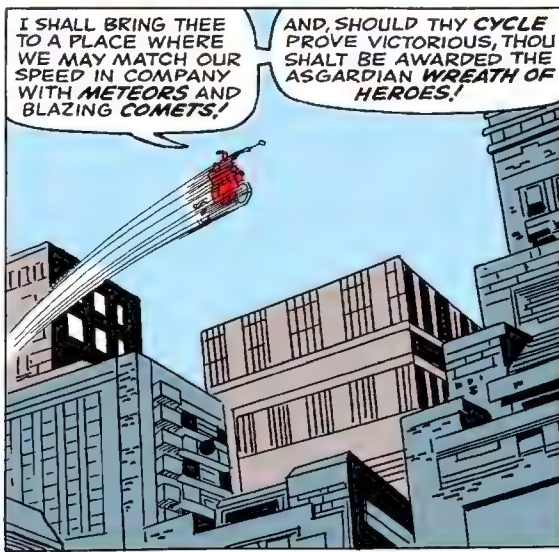
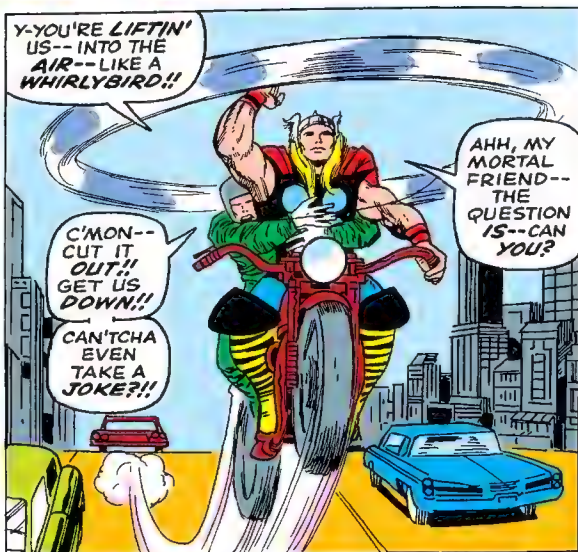
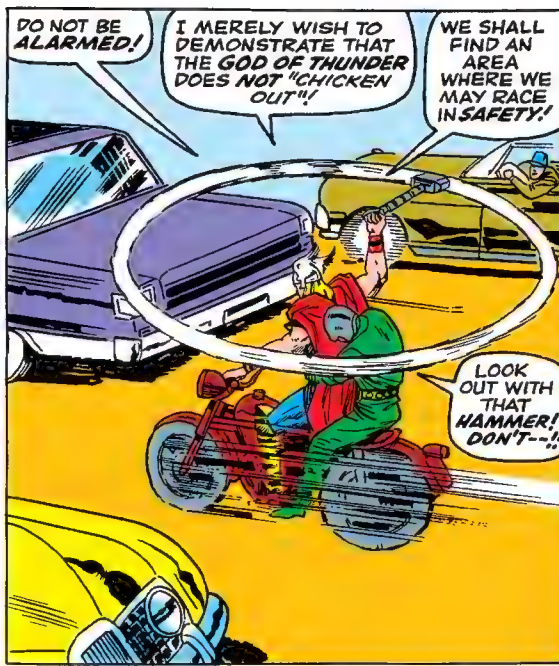
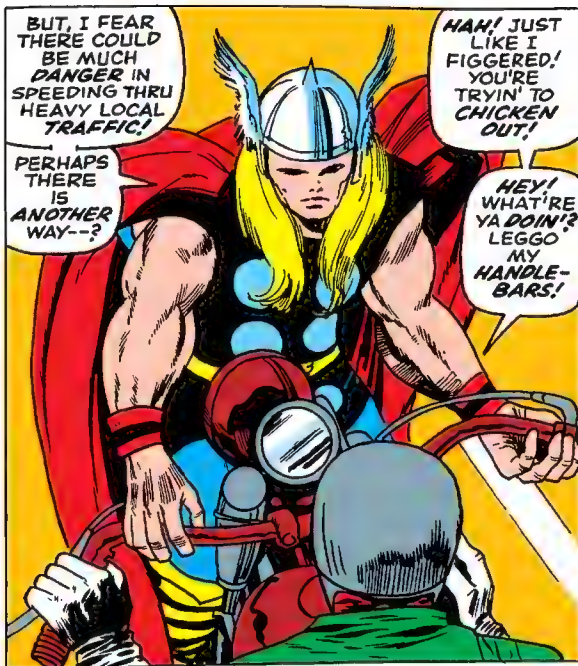
OUR LONG-
HAIRC'D HERO IS
NOT REALLY BLOCK-
ING TRAFFIC!
ACCORDING TO A
LONG-STANDING LOCAL
STATUTE, OFFICIAL
VEHICLES AND THUNDER
GODS ALWAYS
HAVE THE
RIGHT-OF-WAY!

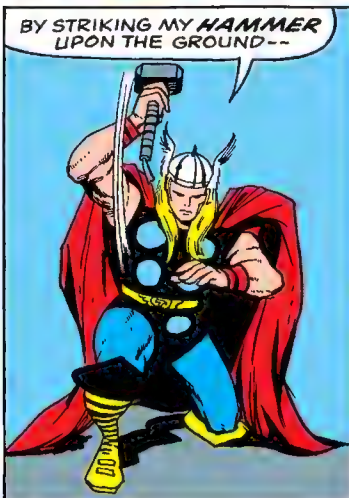
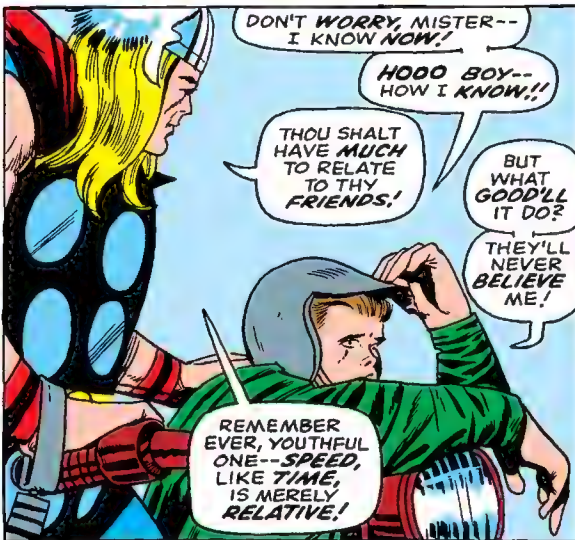
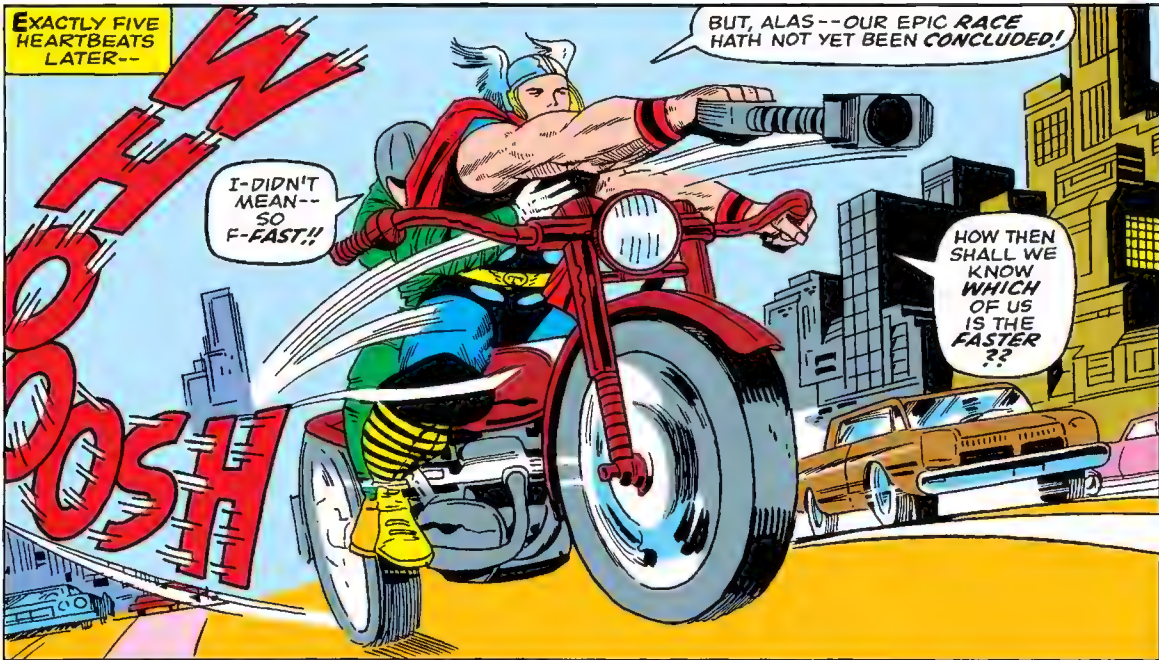
A MODERN, MAJESTIC MASTERWORK

BY
STAN and **JACK**
(THE MAN) (KING)
LEE **KIRBY**

EMBELLISHED BY:
VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERED BY:
ARTIE SIMEK





FAR, FAR BEYOND THE REACHES OF OUR OWN UNIVERSE--YEA, ALMOST BEYOND THE REACH OF HUMAN IMAGINATION ITSELF--IN A LONELY, ENDLESS SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM--WE FIND THE EVIL LOKI, STILL VICTIM OF THE HAUNTING EXILE TO WHICH HE HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY IMPERIUS ODIN--

'T WAS BECAUSE OF MY ACCURSED STEP-BROTHER--THE UNMENTIONABLE THOR--THAT I AM SENTENCED TO THIS LIFE WHICH IS LESS THAN LIFE!

I, WHO AM THE MOST CUNNING--THE MOST CRAFTY--THE MOST CRUEL OF ALL WHO WEAR THE MANTLE OF IMMORTALITY!

I, WHO BY RIGHT OF BIRTH SHOULD BE MOST FAVORED

BUT, INSTEAD--I ENDURE THE MOST LOATHSOME OF PUNISHMENTS, BECAUSE OF MY IGNOBLE DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE GOD OF THUNDER!

STILL, THE PRINCE OF EVIL IS NEVER TRULY VANQUISHED!

LO, THESE LONG AND TORTUROUS MONTHS I HAVE PLANNED--AND SCHEMED--

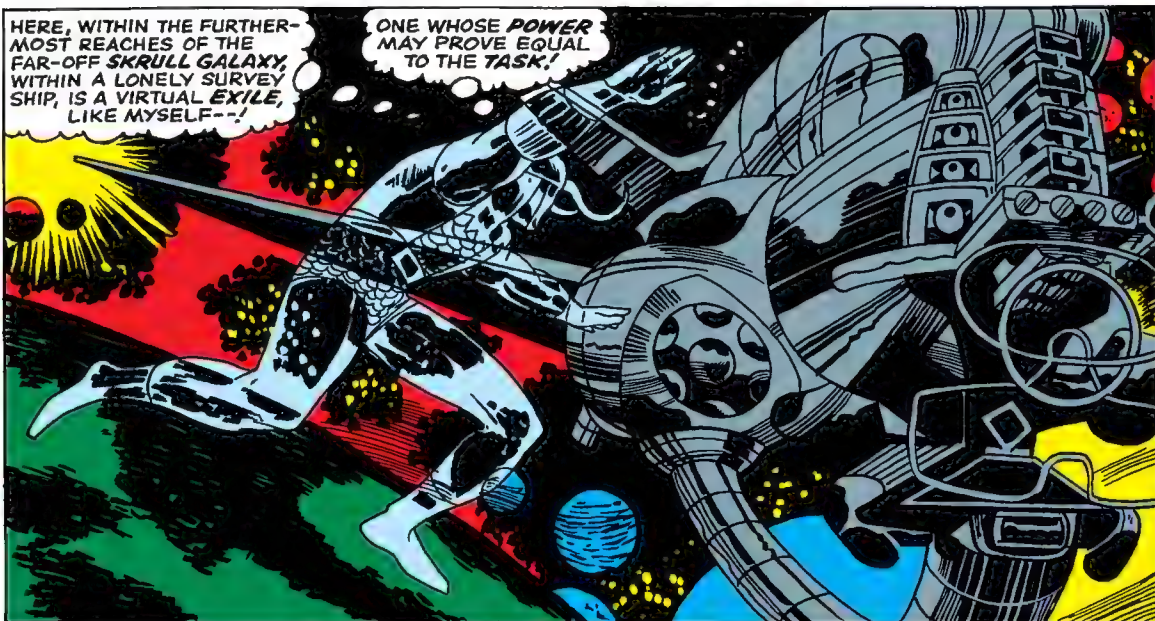
AND NOW--AT LAST--THE TIME IS COME--THE TIME FOR LOKI TO HAVE HIS INEVITABLE REVENGE UPON HIM WHOM I DESPISE!

FOR, THOUGH THE BODY OF LOKI BE HEREWITH IMPRISONED--MY MIND MAY ROAM THE UNIVERSE AT WILL!

AND, AFTER COUNTLESS DAYS AND NIGHTS OF SEARCHING, I HAVE FOUND THE ONE WHO SHALL BE MY INSTRUMENT OF VENGEANCE!

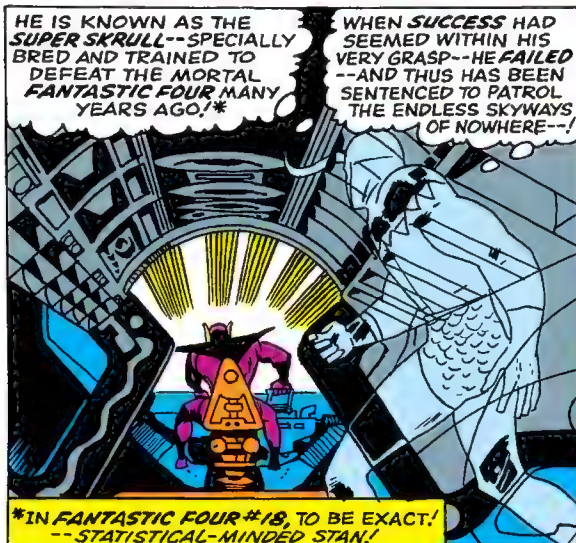
HERE, WITHIN THE FURTHER-
MOST REACHES OF THE
FAR-OFF **SKRULL GALAXY**,
WITHIN A LONELY SURVEY
SHIP, IS A VIRTUAL **EXILE**,
LIKE MYSELF--!

ONE WHOSE **POWER**
MAY PROVE EQUAL
TO THE **TASK**!



HE IS KNOWN AS THE
SUPER SKRULL--SPECIALLY
BRED AND TRAINED TO
DEFEAT THE MORTAL
FANTASTIC FOUR MANY
YEARS AGO!*

WHEN **SUCCESS** HAD
SEEMED WITHIN HIS
VERY GRASP--HE **FAILED**--
--AND THUS HAS BEEN
SENTENCED TO PATROL
THE ENDLESS SKYWAYS
OF NOWHERE--!



*IN **FANTASTIC FOUR #18**, TO BE EXACT!
--STATISTICAL-MINDED STAN!

BUT, WHEN HE BATTLED ON EARTH **BEFORE**, HE DID
NOT HAVE THE WICKED WIZARDRY OF **LOKI** TO AID
HIM!

ALL I NEED DO
IS PLANT THE
PROPER **THOUGHT**
WITHIN HIS
UNSUSPECTING
BRAIN--!

THIS TIME THERE SHALL BE
A **DIFFERENT** RESULT--
AGAINST A DIFFERENT **FOE**!!



YOU CAN STILL
REDEEM YOURSELF
TO THE WORLD OF
SKRULLS!

IF YOU DEFEAT THE **GOD OF**
THUNDER, THEN **ASGARD**
ITSELF MIGHT BE **INVADED**
BY THE **SKRULL** LEGIONS!

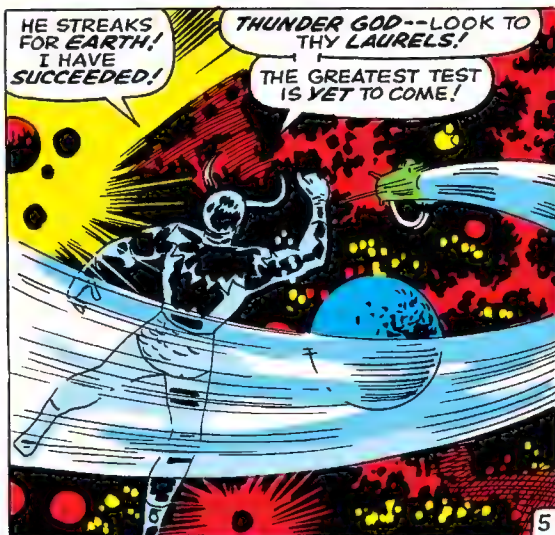
AND IMMORTAL **LOKI**, THE
PRINCE OF EVIL, WOULD
BATTLE AT THY **SIDE**!

CONSIDER THE
GREATNESS--
THE **GRANDEUR**--
THE **GLORY** THAT
WOULD BE **THINE**!

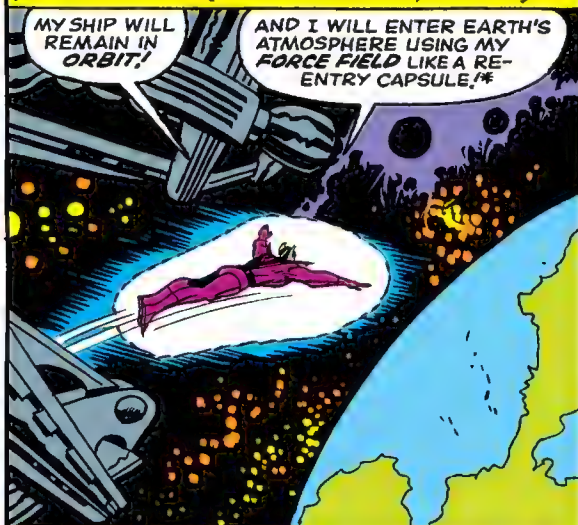


HE STREAKS
FOR **EARTH**!
I HAVE
SUCCEEDED!

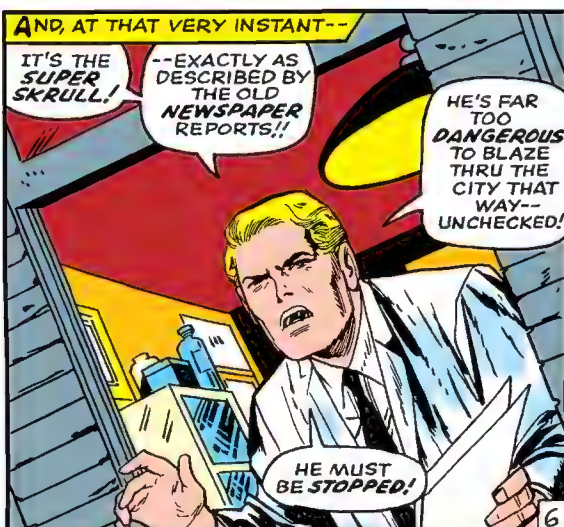
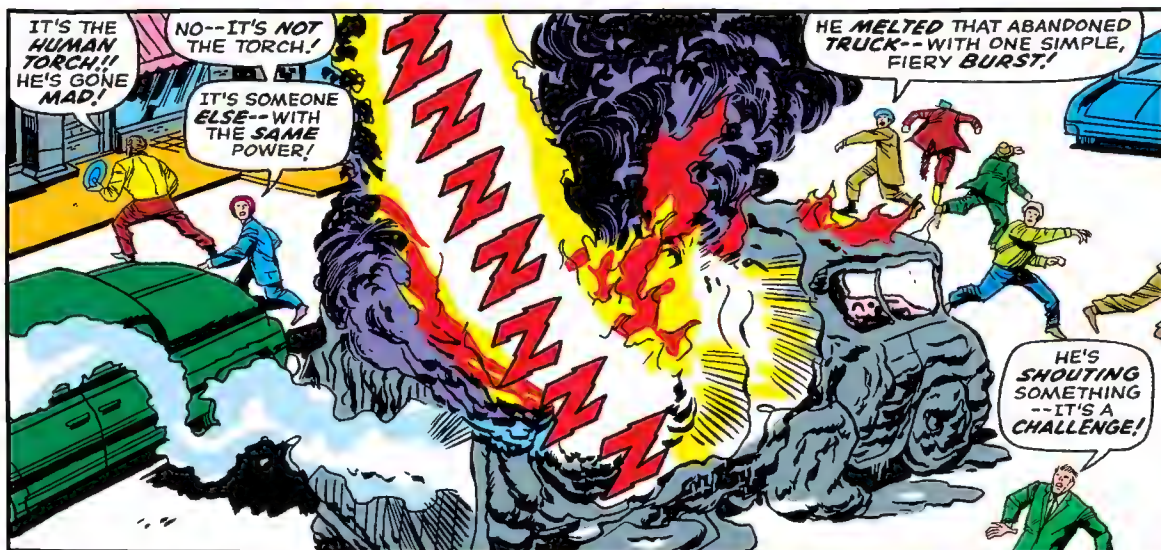
THUNDER GOD--LOOK TO
THY **LAURELS**!
--THE GREATEST TEST
IS **YET** TO COME!

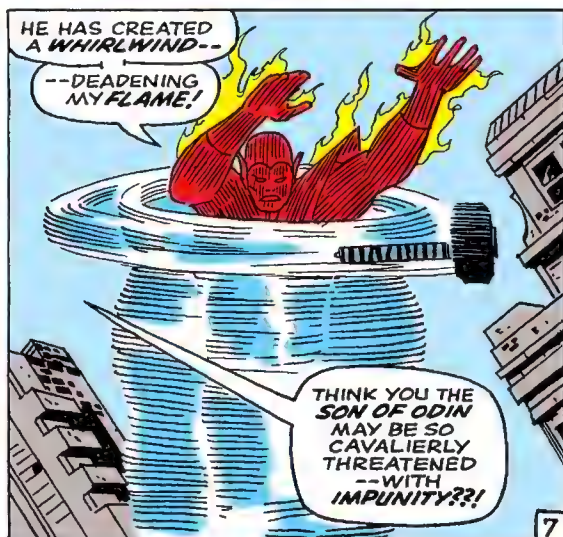
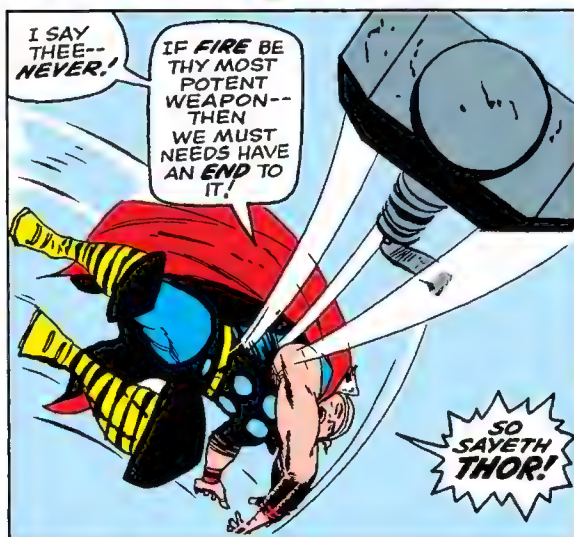
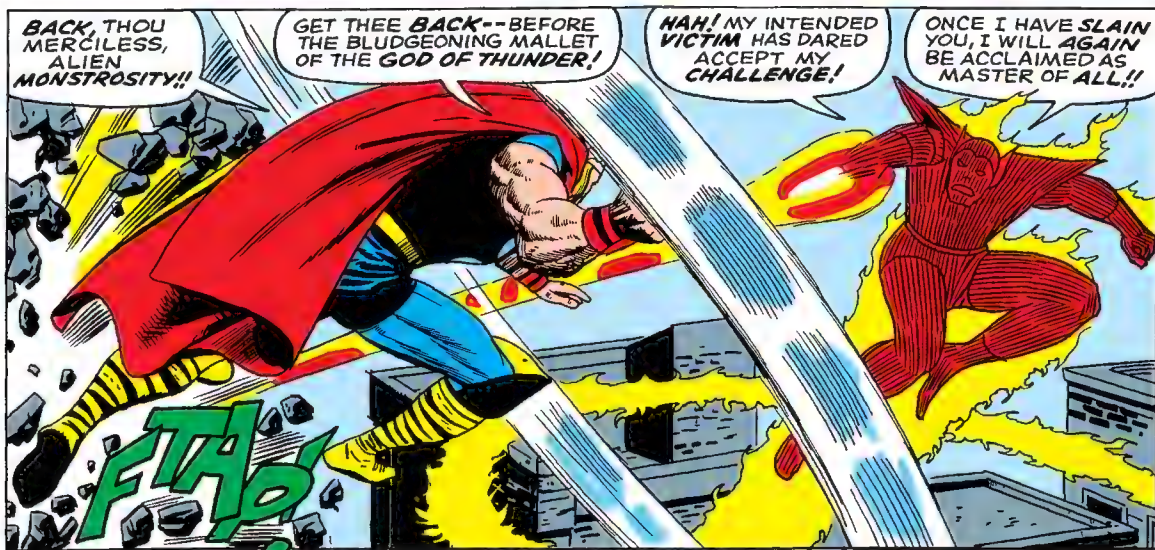
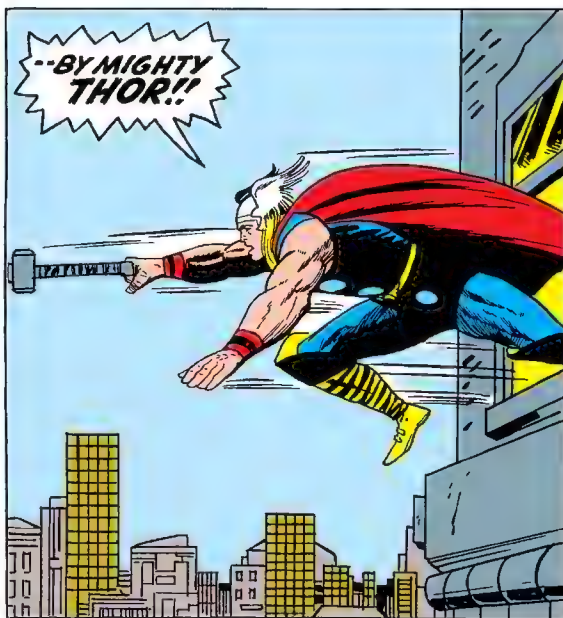
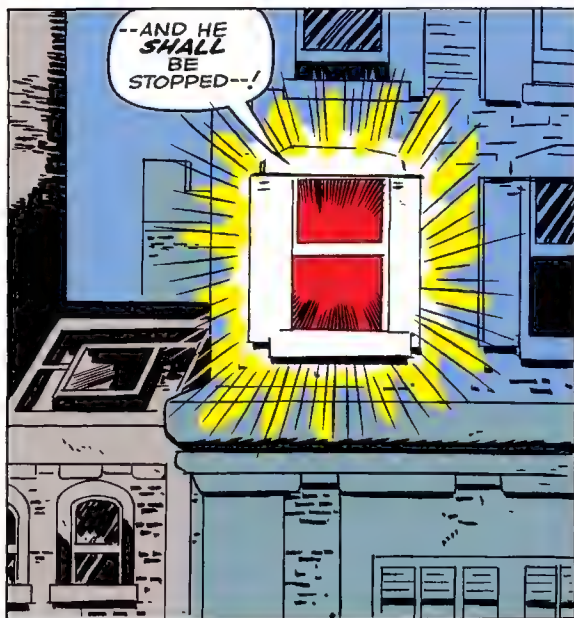


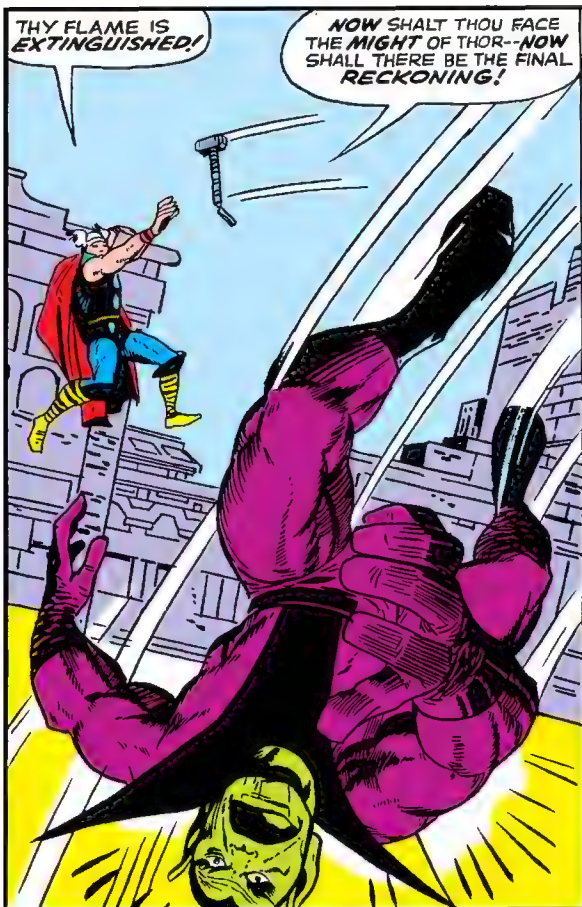
SECONDS LATER--(COSMIC TIME-WISE, THAT IS!)--



*AS ALL TRUE BELIEVERS KNOW, THE *SUPER SKRULL* POSSESSES THE POWERS OF EACH MEMBER OF THE *FANTASTIC FOUR*!--SAGE OL' STAN.







THY FLAME IS EXTINGUISHED!

NOW SHALT THOU FACE THE MIGHT OF THOR--NOW SHALL THERE BE THE FINAL RECKONING!



YES!! THE RECKONING NOW IS DUE--!

BUT, NOT THE WAY YOU EXPECT--

I POSSESS THE POWER OF EACH MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR!

SINCE YOU HAVE DEPRIVED ME OF THE HUMAN TORCH'S FLAME --I SHALL EMPLOY THE SHATTERING STRENGTH OF THE UNSTOPPABLE THING!



ONCE BEFORE, DUE TO MY OWN ABYSMAL CARELESSNESS, I WAS FORCED TO TASTE THE BITTER DREGS OF DEFEAT--

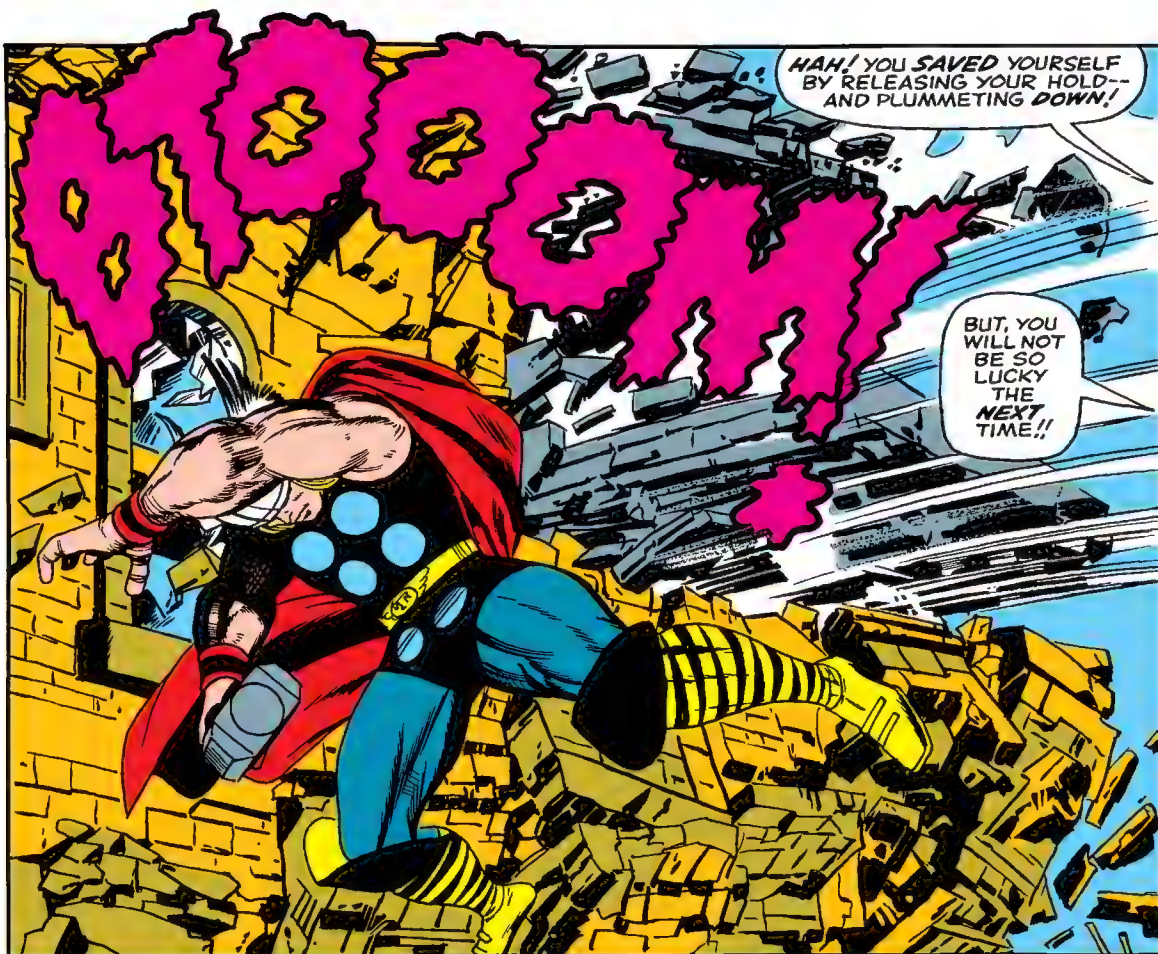
BUT NOW I AM WISER-- MORE CAUTIOUS--AND INFINITELY MORE POWERFUL-- AS YOU CAN EASILY SEE!

HE DOTHT LIFT THE VERY WALL FROM YONDER ROOF-- WITH THE STRENGTH WITHIN HIS OWN TWO ARMS!



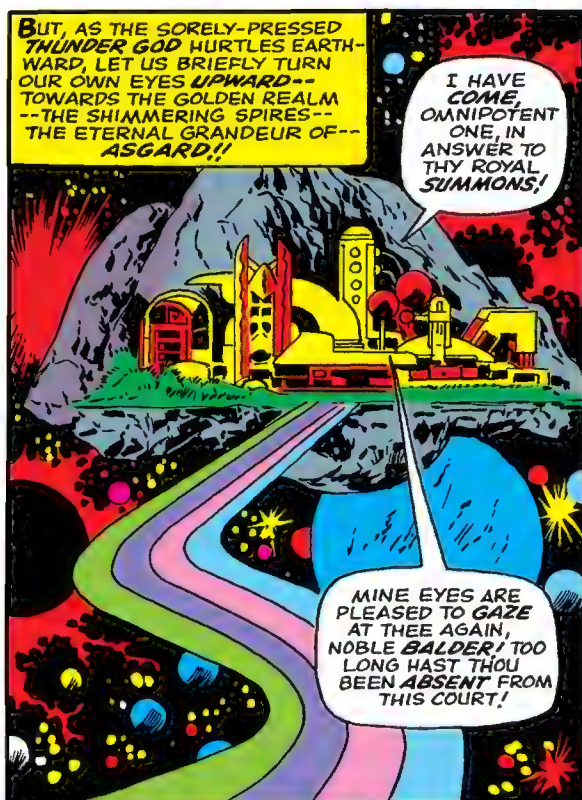
THIS IS WHY THE SUPER SKRULL CANNOT LOSE!!

THIS IS WHY THE GOD OF THUNDER MUST SURELY BE DESTROYED!



HAA! YOU SAVED YOURSELF BY RELEASING YOUR HOLD-- AND PLUMMETING DOWN!

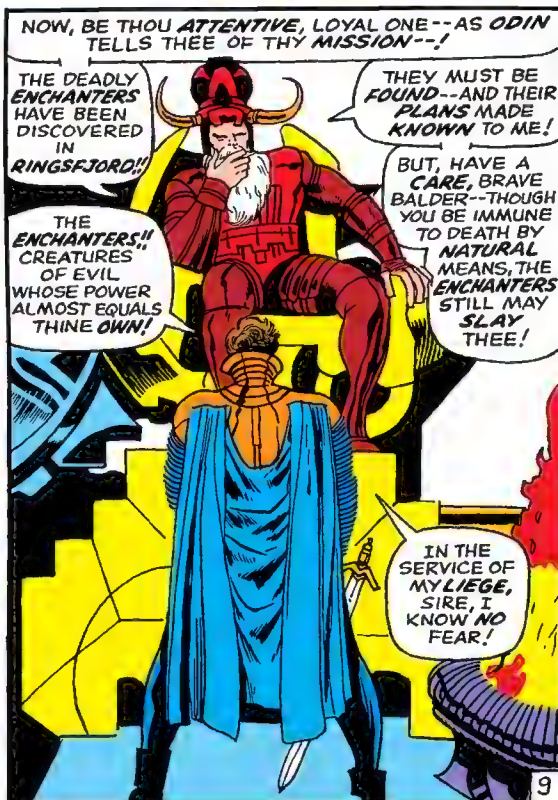
BUT, YOU WILL NOT BE SO LUCKY THE NEXT TIME!!



BUT, AS THE SORELY-PRESSED THUNDER GOD HURTTLES EARTHWARD, LET US BRIEFLY TURN OUR OWN EYES UPWARD-- TOWARDS THE GOLDEN REALM-- THE SHIMMERING SPIRES-- THE ETERNAL GRANDEUR OF-- ASGARD!!

I HAVE COME, OMNIPOTENT ONE, IN ANSWER TO THY ROYAL SUMMONS!

MINE EYES ARE PLEASED TO GAZE AT THEE AGAIN, NOBLE BALDER! TOO LONG HAST THOU BEEN ABSENT FROM THIS COURT!



NOW, BE THOU ATTENTIVE, LOYAL ONE-- AS ODIN TELLS THEE OF THY MISSION--!

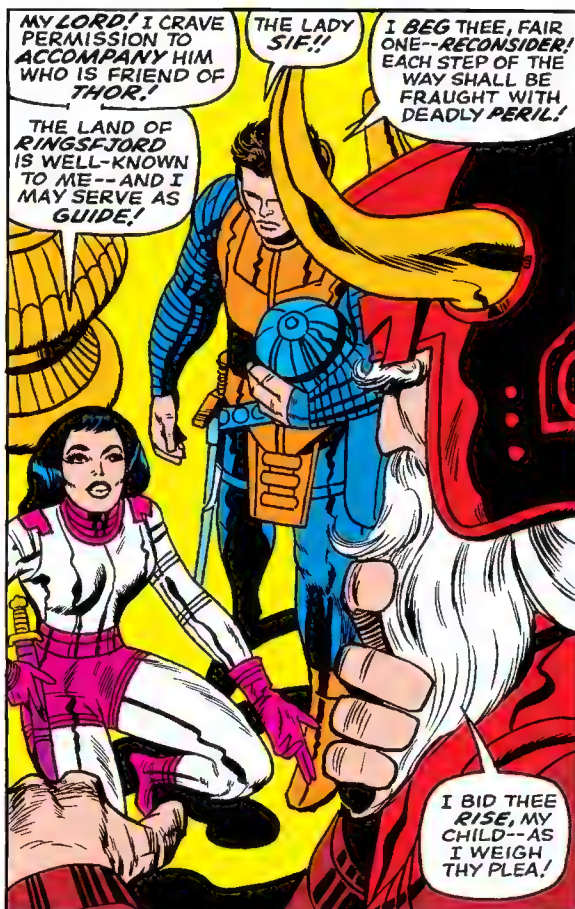
THE DEADLY ENCHANTERS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN RINGSFJORD!!

THEY MUST BE FOUND-- AND THEIR PLANS MADE KNOWN TO ME!

THE ENCHANTERS!! CREATURES OF EVIL WHOSE POWER ALMOST EQUALS THINE OWN!

BUT, HAVE A CARE, BRAVE BALDER-- THOUGH YOU BE IMMUNE TO DEATH BY NATURAL MEANS, THE ENCHANTERS STILL MAY SLAY THEE!

IN THE SERVICE OF MY LIEGE, SIRE, I KNOW NO FEAR!



MY LORD! I CRAVE PERMISSION TO ACCOMPANY HIM WHO IS FRIEND OF THOR!

THE LADY SIF!!

I BEG THEE, FAIR ONE--RECONSIDER! EACH STEP OF THE WAY SHALL BE FRAUGHT WITH DEADLY PERIL!

THE LAND OF RINGSFJORD IS WELL-KNOWN TO ME--AND I MAY SERVE AS GUIDE!

I BID THEE RISE, MY CHILD--AS I WEIGH THY PLEA!



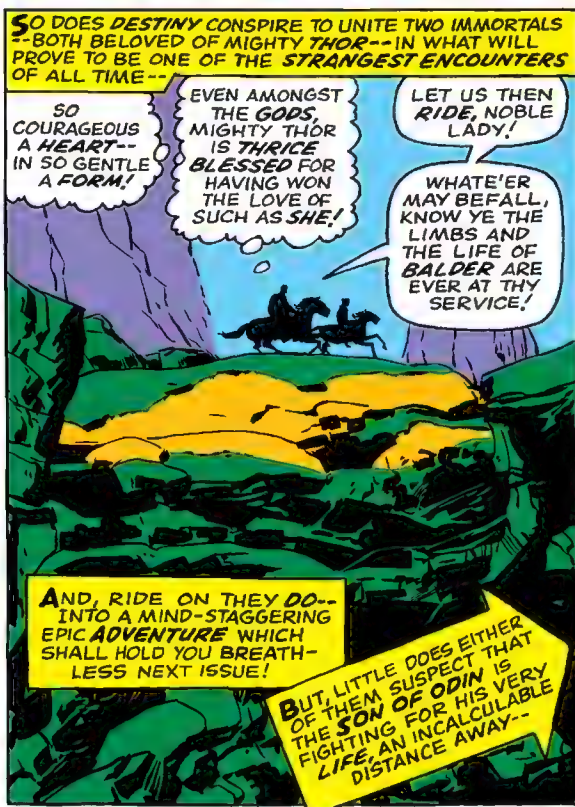
THOU DOST BUT SEEK TO OVERCOME THY LONELINESS--THY LONGING FOR THOR'S RETURN!

BUT, AS THE GOD OF THUNDER IS LIKE UNTO A BROTHER TO BALDER, I CANNOT PERMIT ONE WHOM HE TREASURES SO HIGHLY TO TAKE SUCH RISK!

IS MY ARM NOT SKILLFUL AS ANY WARRIOR? IS MY EYE NOT AS KEEN? IS MY COURAGE LESS TRUE?

I RULE FOR THE LADY SIF! AS NOBLE OF THE REALM, SHE DOTH POSSESS THE RIGHT TO THUS VOLUNTEER! SO BE IT!!

SHALL WE DEPART AT ONCE, MY LORD?



SO DOES DESTINY CONSPIRE TO UNITE TWO IMMORTALS--BOTH BELOVED OF MIGHTY THOR--IN WHAT WILL PROVE TO BE ONE OF THE STRANGEST ENCOUNTERS OF ALL TIME--

SO COURAGEOUS A HEART--IN SO GENTLE A FORM!

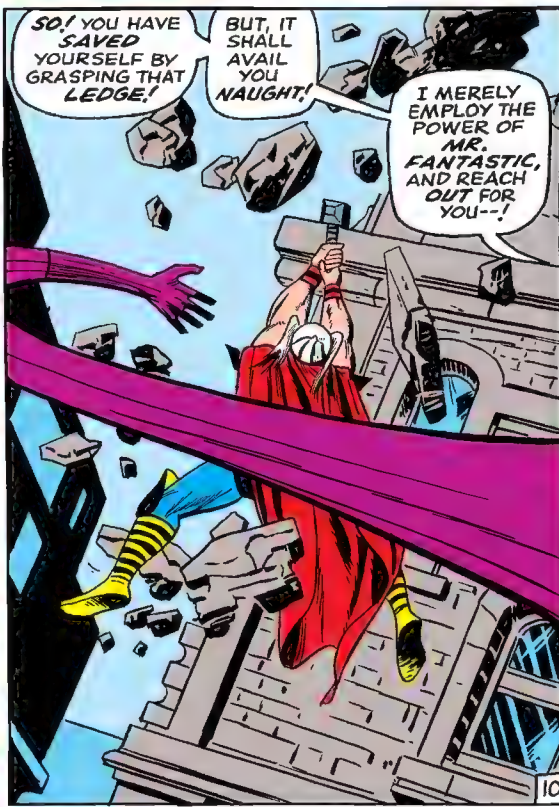
EVEN AMONGST THE GODS, MIGHTY THOR IS THRICE BLESSED FOR HAVING WON THE LOVE OF SUCH AS SHE!

LET US THEN RIDE, NOBLE LADY!

WHATE'ER MAY BEFALL, KNOW YE THE LIMBS AND THE LIFE OF BALDER ARE EVER AT THY SERVICE!

AND, RIDE ON THEY DO--INTO A MIND-STAGGERING EPIC ADVENTURE WHICH SHALL HOLD YOU BREATHLESS NEXT ISSUE!

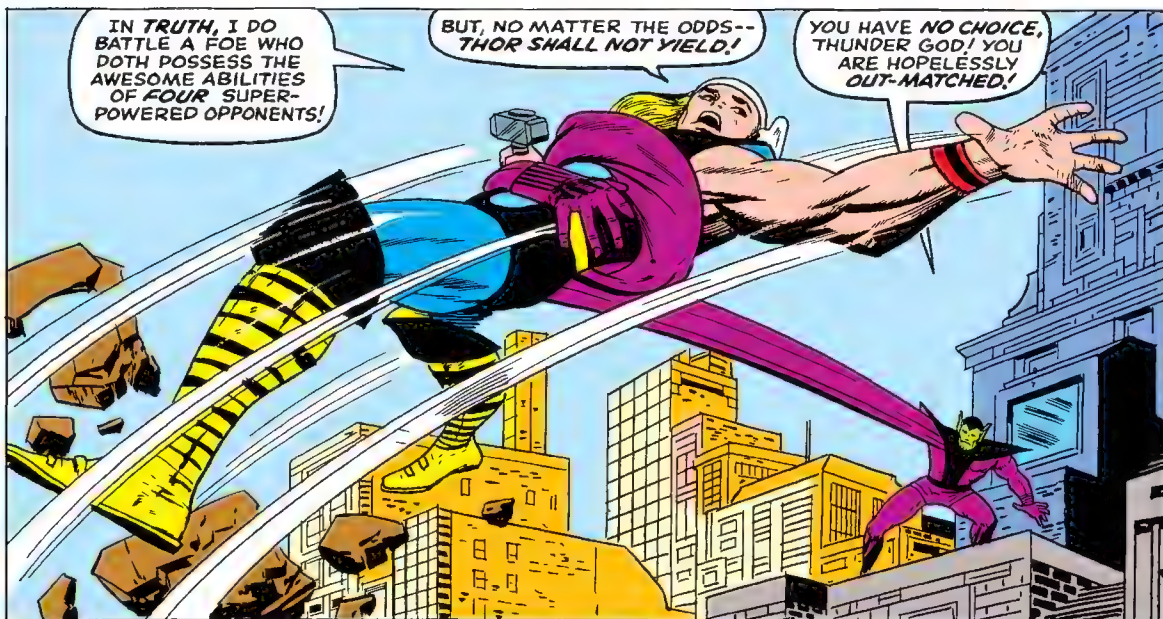
BUT, LITTLE DOES EITHER OF THEM SUSPECT THAT THE SON OF ODIN IS FIGHTING FOR HIS VERY LIFE, AN INCALCULABLE DISTANCE AWAY--



SO! YOU HAVE SAVED YOURSELF BY GRASPING THAT LEDGE!

BUT, IT SHALL AVAIL YOU NAUGHT!

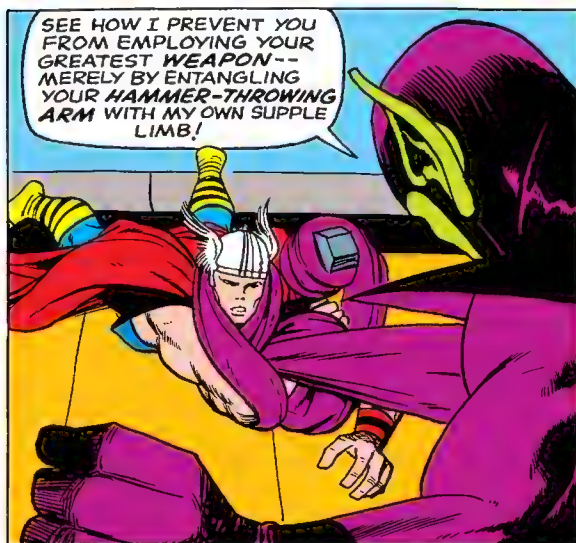
I MERELY EMPLOY THE POWER OF MR. FANTASTIC, AND REACH OUT FOR YOU--!



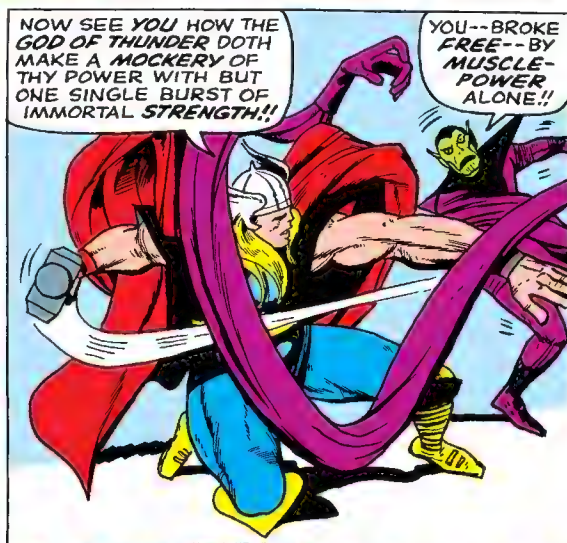
IN TRUTH, I DO BATTLE A FOE WHO DOTH POSSESS THE AWESOME ABILITIES OF **FOUR** SUPER-POWERED OPPONENTS!

BUT, NO MATTER THE ODDS--
THOR SHALL NOT YIELD!

YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, THUNDER GOD! YOU ARE HOPELESSLY **OUT-MATCHED!**

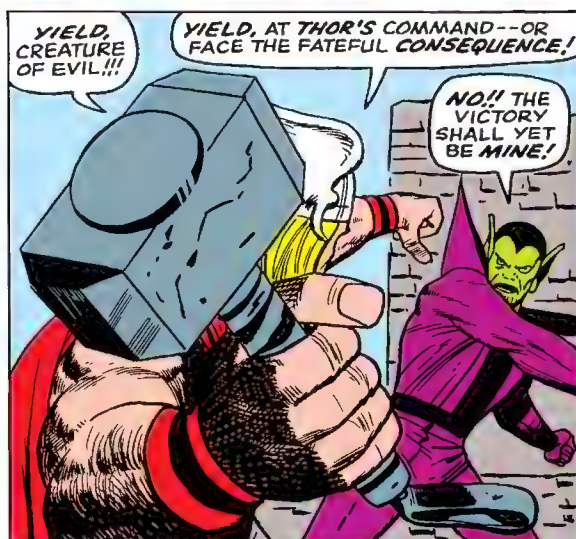


SEE HOW I PREVENT YOU FROM EMPLOYING YOUR GREATEST **WEAPON**-- MERELY BY ENTANGLING YOUR **HAMMER-THROWING ARM** WITH MY OWN SUPPLE LIMB!



NOW SEE YOU HOW THE **GOD OF THUNDER** DOTH MAKE A **MOCKERY** OF THY POWER WITH BUT ONE SINGLE BURST OF IMMORTAL **STRENGTH!!**

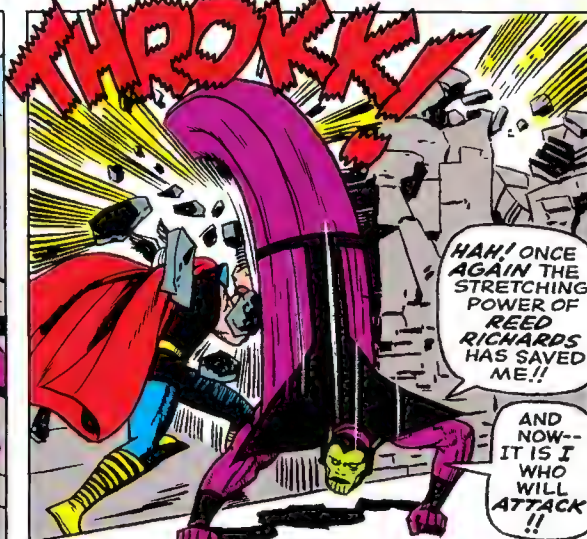
YOU--BROKE **FREE--** BY **MUSCLE-POWER** ALONE!!



YIELD, CREATURE OF EVIL!!!

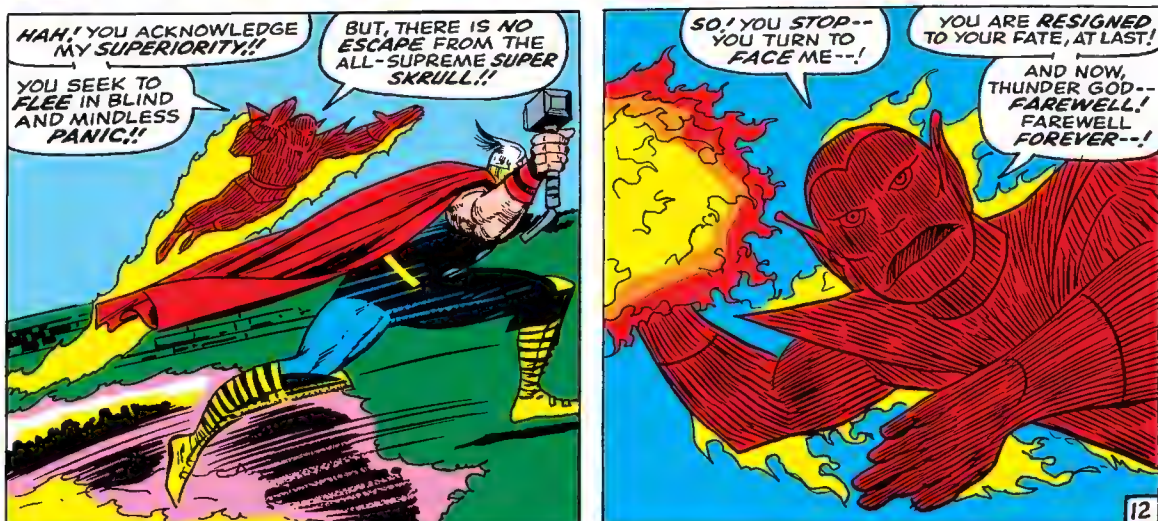
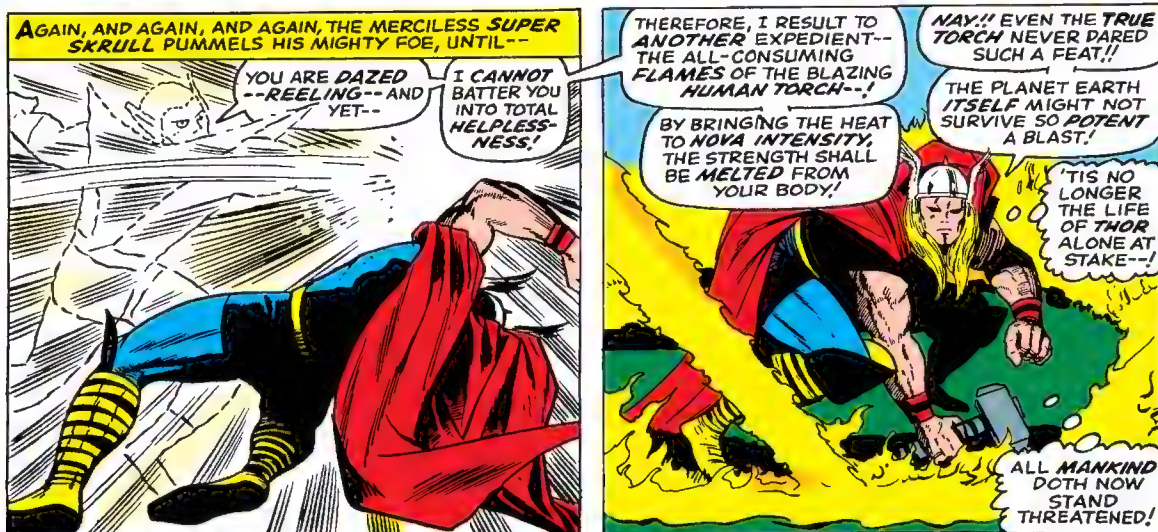
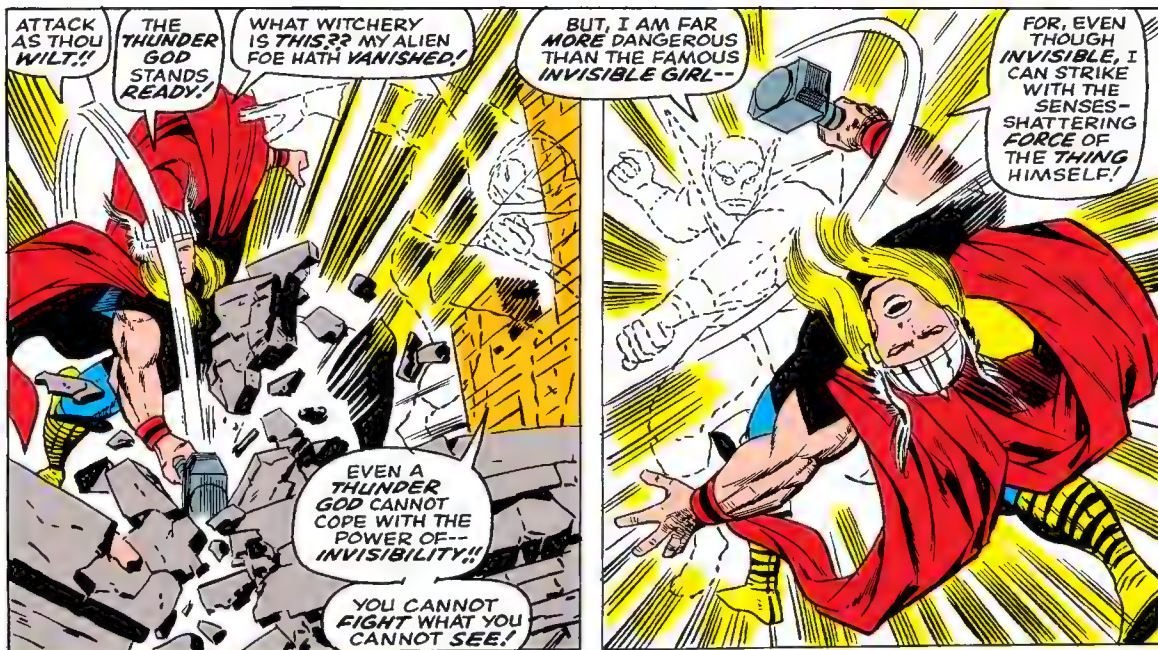
YIELD, AT THOR'S COMMAND--OR FACE THE FATEFUL CONSEQUENCE!

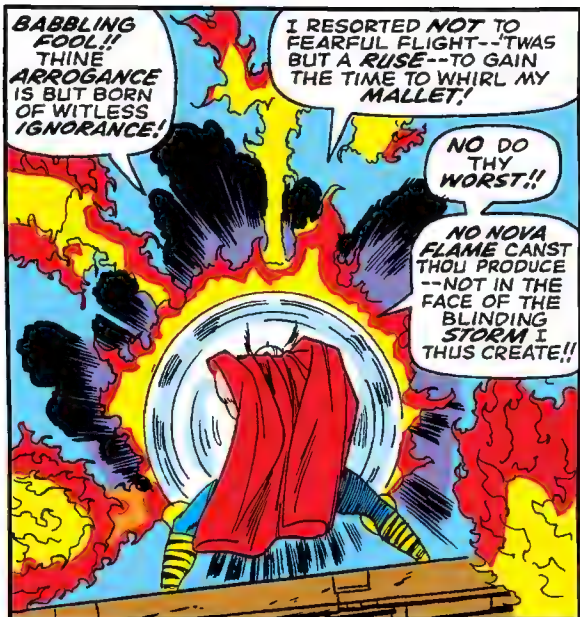
NO!! THE VICTORY SHALL YET BE MINE!



HAN! ONCE AGAIN THE STRETCHING POWER OF REED RICHARDS HAS SAVED ME!!

AND NOW-- IT IS I WHO WILL ATTACK !!



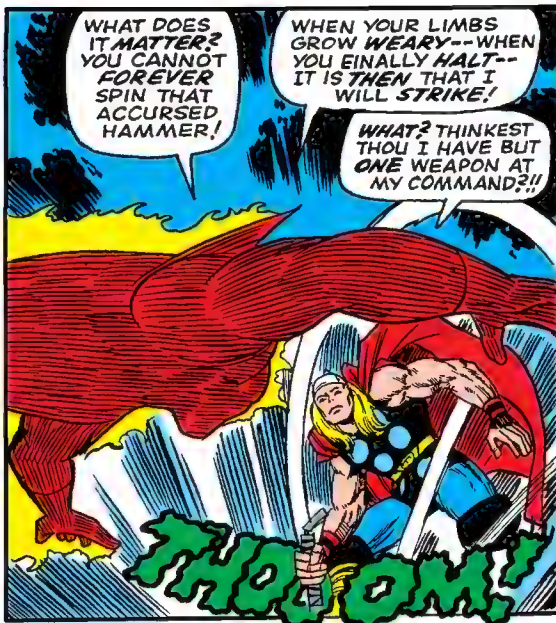


BABBLING FOOL!!
THINE ARROGANCE IS BUT BORN OF WITLESS IGNORANCE!

I RESORTED NOT TO FEARFUL FLIGHT--TWAS BUT A RUSE--TO GAIN THE TIME TO WHIRL MY MALLET!

NO DO THY WORST!!

NO NOVA FLAME CANST THOU PRODUCE --NOT IN THE FACE OF THE BLINDING STORM I THUS CREATE!!



WHAT DOES IT MATTER? YOU CANNOT FOREVER SPIN THAT ACCURSED HAMMER!

WHEN YOUR LIMBS GROW WEARY--WHEN YOU FINALLY HALT--IT IS THEN THAT I WILL STRIKE!

WHAT? THINKEST THOU I HAVE BUT ONE WEAPON AT MY COMMAND?!!

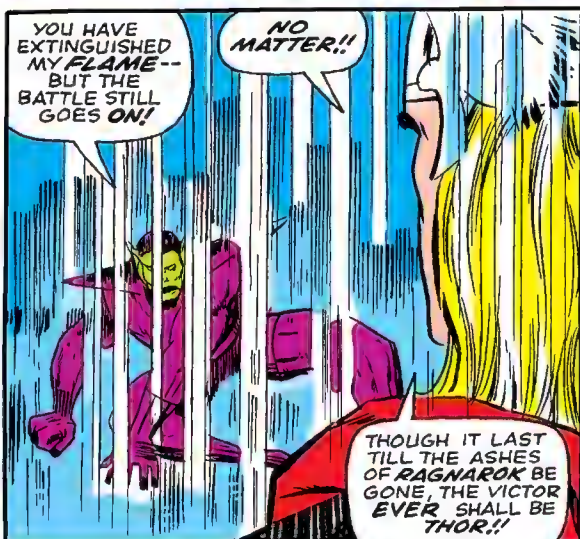
THUDOM!



HAST THOU SO SOON FORGOTT?? 'TIS THE GOD OF THUNDER WHO DOTH OPPOSE THEE!

'TIS MIGHTY THOR-- AT WHOSE BEHEST THE STORM DOTH ERUPT-- THE LIGHTNING DOTH FLASH-- THE HEAVENS THEMSELVES REVEAL THEIR AWESOME MAJESTY!!

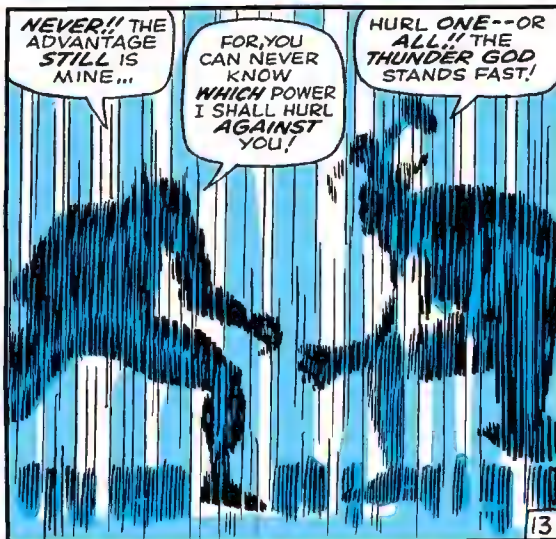
SO BE IT!



YOU HAVE EXTINGUISHED MY FLAME-- BUT THE BATTLE STILL GOES ON!

NO MATTER!!

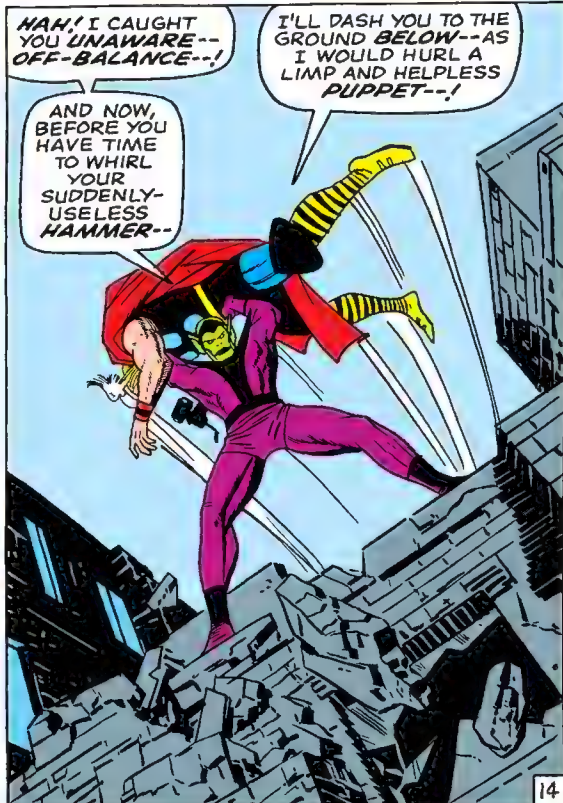
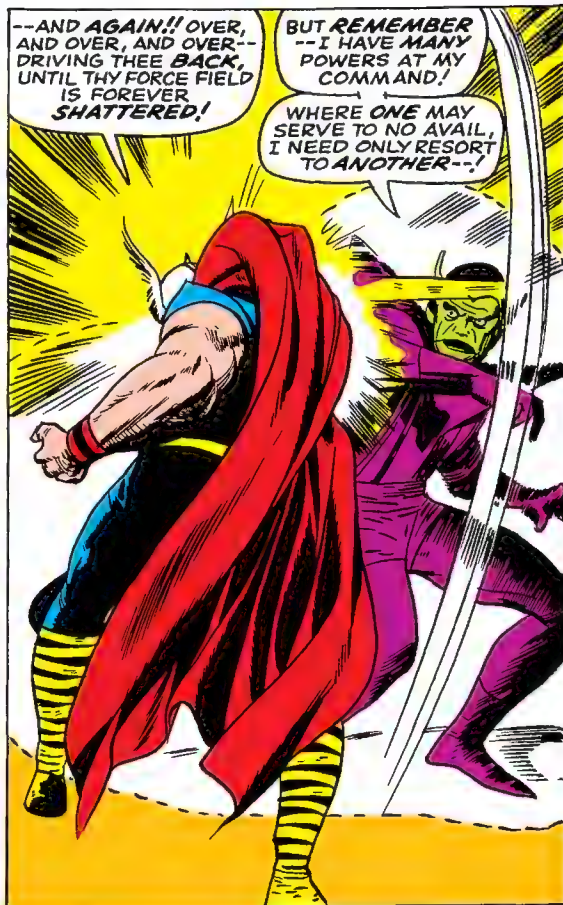
THOUGH IT LAST TILL THE ASHES OF RAGNAROK BE GONE, THE VICTOR EVER SHALL BE THOR!!

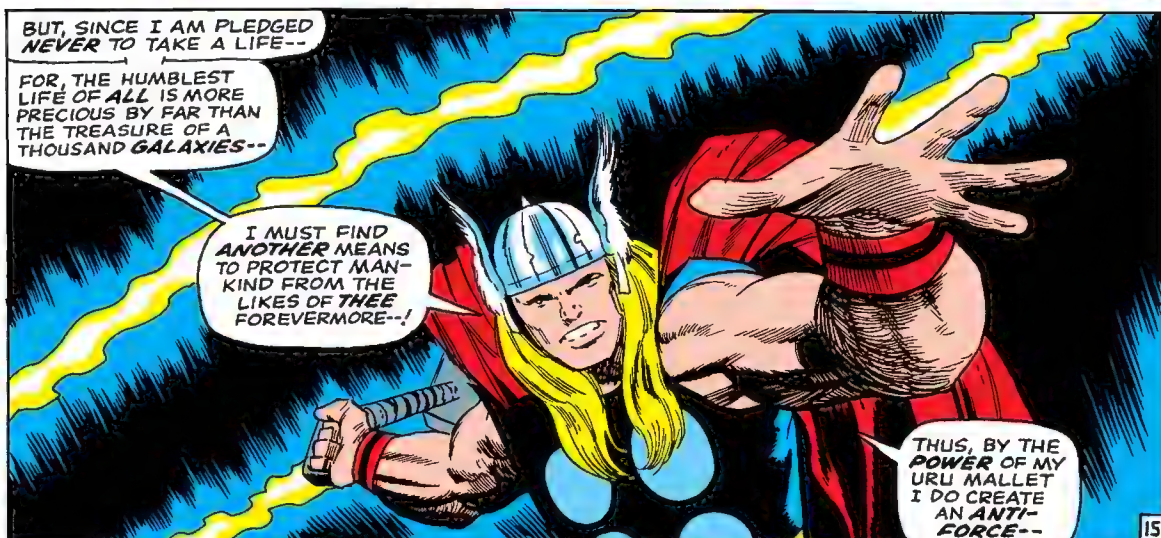
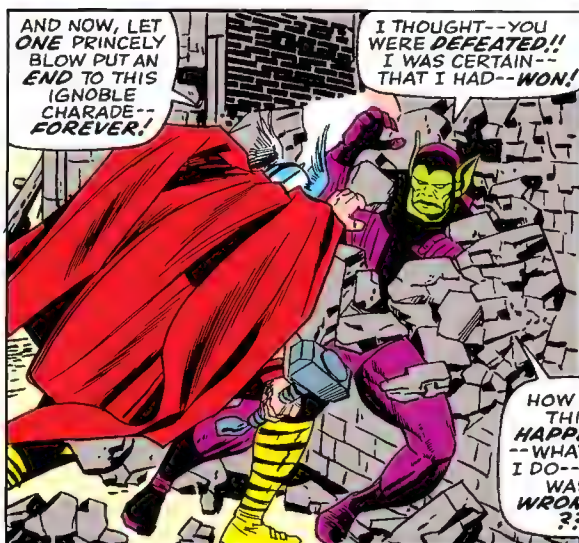
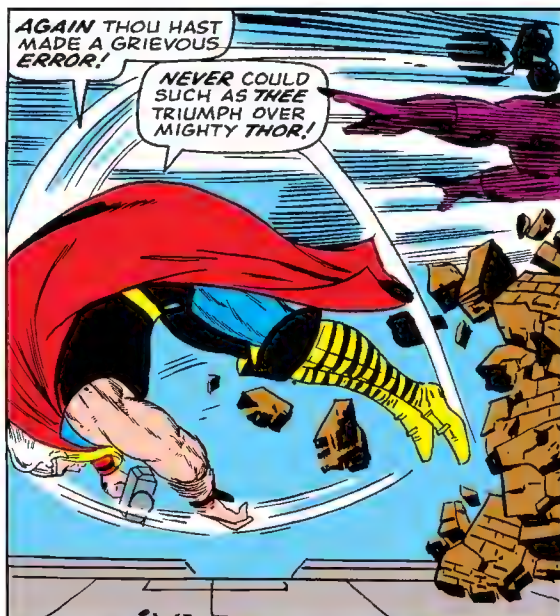


NEVER!! THE ADVANTAGE STILL IS MINE...

FOR, YOU CAN NEVER KNOW WHICH POWER I SHALL HURL AGAINST YOU!

HURL ONE--OR ALL-- THE THUNDER GOD STANDS FAST!







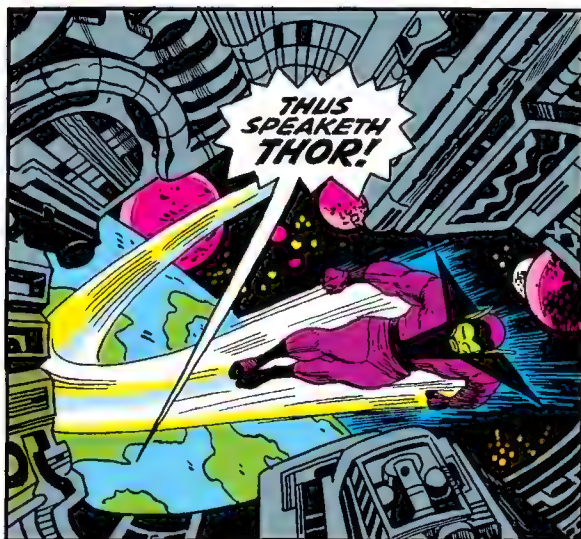
BEGONE THEN, SUPER SKRULL!!

NEVER AGAIN WILL THE PLANET EARTH OFFER HAVEN FOR SUCH AS THEE!



I AM HELPLESS-- CAUGHT IN THE GRIP OF A FORCE I CANNOT BEGIN TO COMPREHEND!

RETURN FROM WHENCE THOU HAST COME! THY DEFEAT IS ASSURED --THY BANISHMENT ETERNAL!

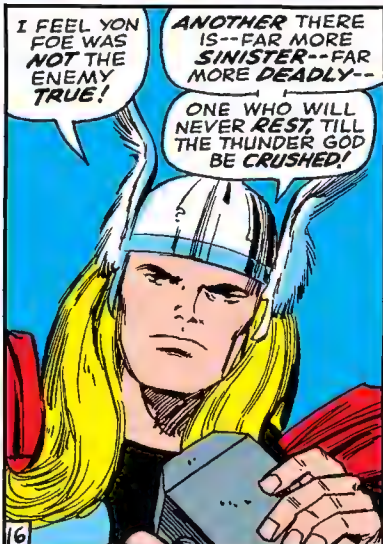


THUS SPEAKETH THOR!



THE BATTLE IS ENDED-- THE CAUSE IS WON!

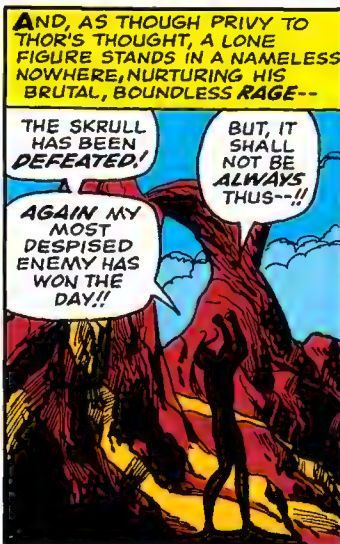
AND YET, A SENSE OF UNEASE DOETH LIE HEAVY UPON MY HEART!



I FEEL YON FOE WAS NOT THE ENEMY TRUE!

ANOTHER THERE IS--FAR MORE SINISTER--FAR MORE DEADLY--

ONE WHO WILL NEVER REST, TILL THE THUNDER GOD BE CRUSHED!



AND, AS THOUGH PRIVY TO THOR'S THOUGHT, A LONE FIGURE STANDS IN A NAMELESS NOWHERE, NURTURING HIS BRUTAL, BOUNDLESS RAGE--

THE SKRULL HAS BEEN DEFEATED!

AGAIN MY MOST DESPISED ENEMY HAS WON THE DAY!!

BUT, IT SHALL NOT BE ALWAYS THUS--!!



I WILL PLAN-- AND PLAN AGAIN--TILL THE VICTORY IS MINE!

THOUGH IT TAKES AN ETERNITY, I SHALL DESTROY THE GOD OF THUNDER--

AND WITH HIM, HIS BELOVED EARTH AS WELL!

NEXT: THOU MUST NOT MISS...

THE ENCHANTERS!

TALES OF **ASGARD**, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS

"WE, WHO ARE ABOUT TO DIE...!"

IN THE COMPANY OF **THOR**, **FANDRAL**, AND **VOLSTAGG**, **HOGUN THE GRIMM** HAS INVADED **ZANADU**, THE DEADLY DOMAIN OF **MOGUL**, OF THE **MYSTIC MOUNTAIN**, IN ORDER TO FREE HOGUN'S ENSLAVED COUNTRYMEN AND REGAIN HIS CAPTURED **BATTLE STANDARD**!

BUT, LEARNING OF THE INCREDIBLE INVASION, THE MERCILESS **MOGUL** PREPARES TO BRING **DEATH TO ALL**, RATHER THAN FACE THE AWESOME **JUSTICE** OF THE MIGHTY **ASGARDIANS**...

FIREBOLTS!!
HURLING DOWN
UPON US FROM
BEYOND THE
MYSTIC
MOUNTAIN!

'TIS THE DOING
OF MURDEROUS
MOGUL!

KNOWING OUR
RESCUERS ARE NEAR
AT HAND,
HE CHOOSES
TO **DESTROY** THE
REALM RATHER THAN
YIELD!

FACE IT,
FAITHFUL ONE...
STAN (THE MAN) **JACK** (THE KING)
LEE **KIRBY**
HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!
AIDED BY--
VINCE COLLETTA,
INKER
ARTIE SIMEK,
LETTERER

THOU MAY **BLUDGEON** US, MOGUL--THOU MAY **BEAT** US, THOU MAY **SLAY** US--BUT **NEVER** SHALL WE **YIELD!!**

THOUGH OUR **BODIES** BE **BROKEN**--OUR **SPIRITS** REMAIN **UNBOWED!!**

FEAR NOT, MY CHILD! THE TYRANT ATTACKS BECAUSE **PANIC** DOTH GRIP HIS EVIL HEART!

WELL DOTH HE KNOW THAT SOON HE MUST ANSWER TO--THE MACE OF **HOGUN!**

MOGUL HATH TURNED AGAINST HIS OWN **GUARD!** HE STRIKES THOSE WHO **SERVE** HIM AS **MERCILESSLY** AS THOSE HE SEEKS TO **DESTROY!**



BUT, THERE IS YET **ANOTHER** DARK DEED WHICH MOGUL HAS PERPETRATED--THE NEWS OF WHICH A LONE RIDER TRIES TO BRING TO THE PEOPLE--BUT TRIES IN **VAIN--!**

MOGUL HATH LOOSED **SATAN'S FORTY HORSE-MEN!!** EVEN NOW THEY THUNDER THRU THE NIGHT TO TRAMPLE THE WARRIORS OF **ASGARD!**

BUT, ONCE **HOGUN** AND HIS FELLOWS ARE SLAIN, THERE WILL BE NONE TO **STOP** THEM! THE FORTY MOUNTED **DEMONS** SHALL OVERRUN THE **WORLD!!**

BUT NOW--I **PERISH!** THRU SOME DARK, **DEMONIAC WITCHERY,** THE MYSTIC **MOGUL** HAS STILLED MY TONGUE--**FOREVER--!**



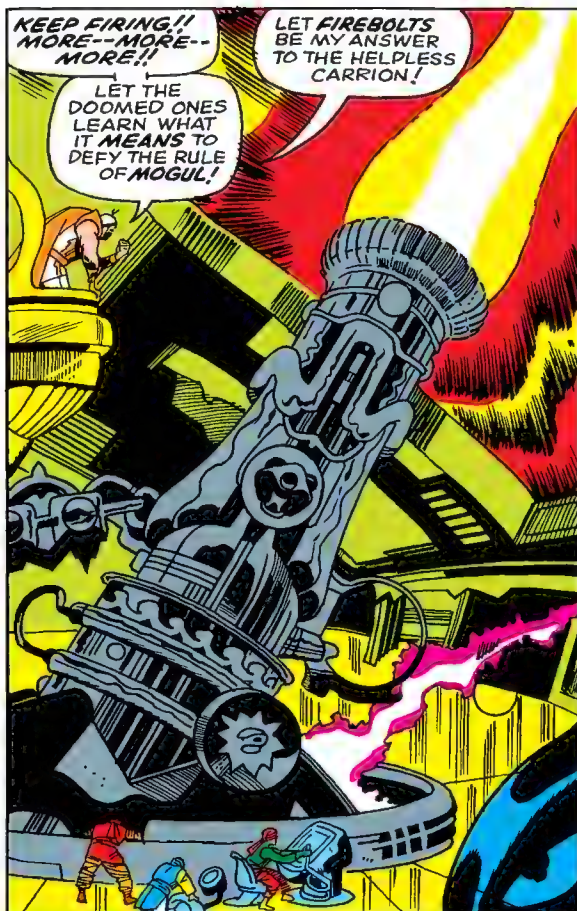
AND, WITHIN THE **SORCERER'S SANCTUM,** IN THE CASTLE OF **ZANADU--**

BY THE **DEMONS OF DARKNESS--** NONE ARE AS MIGHTY AS **MOGUL!!**

HOGUN THINKS TO SET HIS PEOPLE **FREE--** HE THINKS TO LOOSEN THE YOKE OF **SLAVERY** WHICH I HAVE PUT O'ER THE LAND!



BUT INSTEAD-- HE HAS CAUSED **DESTRUCTION** WITHOUT **END** TO RAIN DOWN FROM THE **SKIES!!**



KEEP FIRING!!
MORE--MORE--
MORE!!

LET FIREBOLTS
BE MY ANSWER
TO THE HELPLESS
CARRION!

LET THE
DOOMED ONES
LEARN WHAT
IT *MEANS* TO
DEFY THE RULE
OF *MOGUL*!



AS FOR *HOGUN*,
AND HIS FELLOW
ASGARDIANS,
THEY WILL FALL
BEFORE THE NEXT
DAWN 'NEATH THE
THUNDERING
HOOVES OF MY
DEMON RIDERS!

BUT *HOLD*!! WHO DARES
APPROACH THE MIGHTY
MOGUL?? WHAT MORTAL
CREATURE DOTH PRESUME
TO ENTER THE *PRESENCE*?

'TIS *I*, MASTER
--THY LOYAL
SERVANT,
SULIBEG!

I HAVE MIXED
THY *POTION*
--AS THOU DIDST
COMMAND!

SERVANT?? THOU
DOST FLATTER
THYSELF!

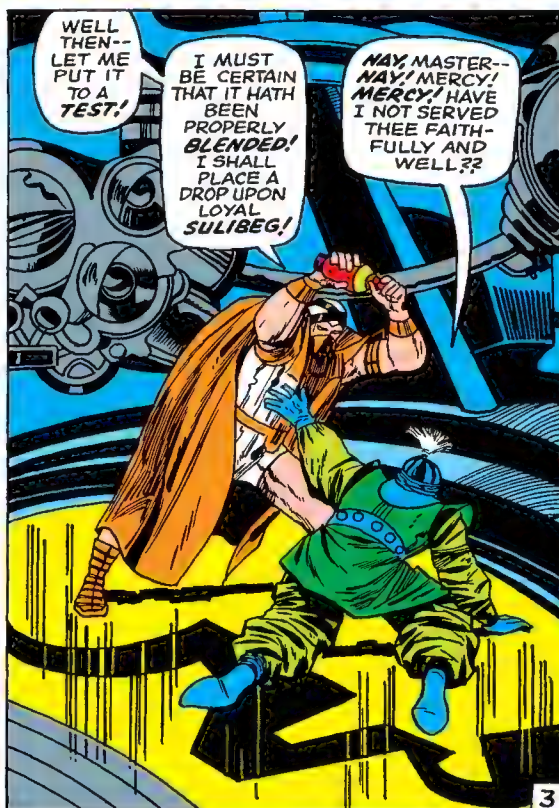
THOU ART BUT
SLAVE TO *MOGUL*--
AS ALL WHO LIVE
ONE DAY SHALL BE!



NOW--THE
POTION!!
I WOULD
FAIN
POSSESS
IT!

THOU MUST HANDLE IT WITH GREATEST
CARE, MASTER!

IT DOTH CONTAIN THE *SPOTTED
PLAGUE*!! ONE SLIGHT *SPRINK-
LING* CAN FELL A TRIBE *ENTIRE*!



WELL THEN--
LET ME
PUT IT
TO A
TEST!

I MUST
BE CERTAIN
THAT IT HATH
BEEN
PROPERLY
BLENDED!
I SHALL
PLACE A
DROP UPON
LOYAL
SULIBEG!

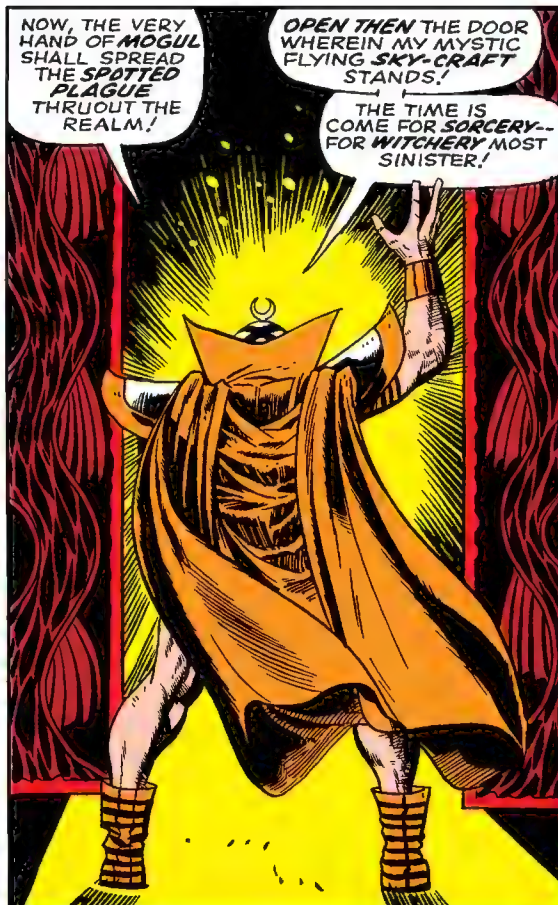
NAY, MASTER--
NAY! *MERCY*!
MERCY! HAVE
I NOT SERVED
THEE FAITH-
FULLY AND
WELL??



FAH! AWAY WITH THEE,
THOU BASE AND SERVILE
FAVNING DOG!

YON POTION IS FOR THOSE
WHO DARE TO DEFY--NOT
FOR CRINGING, CRAVEN
VERMIN SUCH AS THEE!

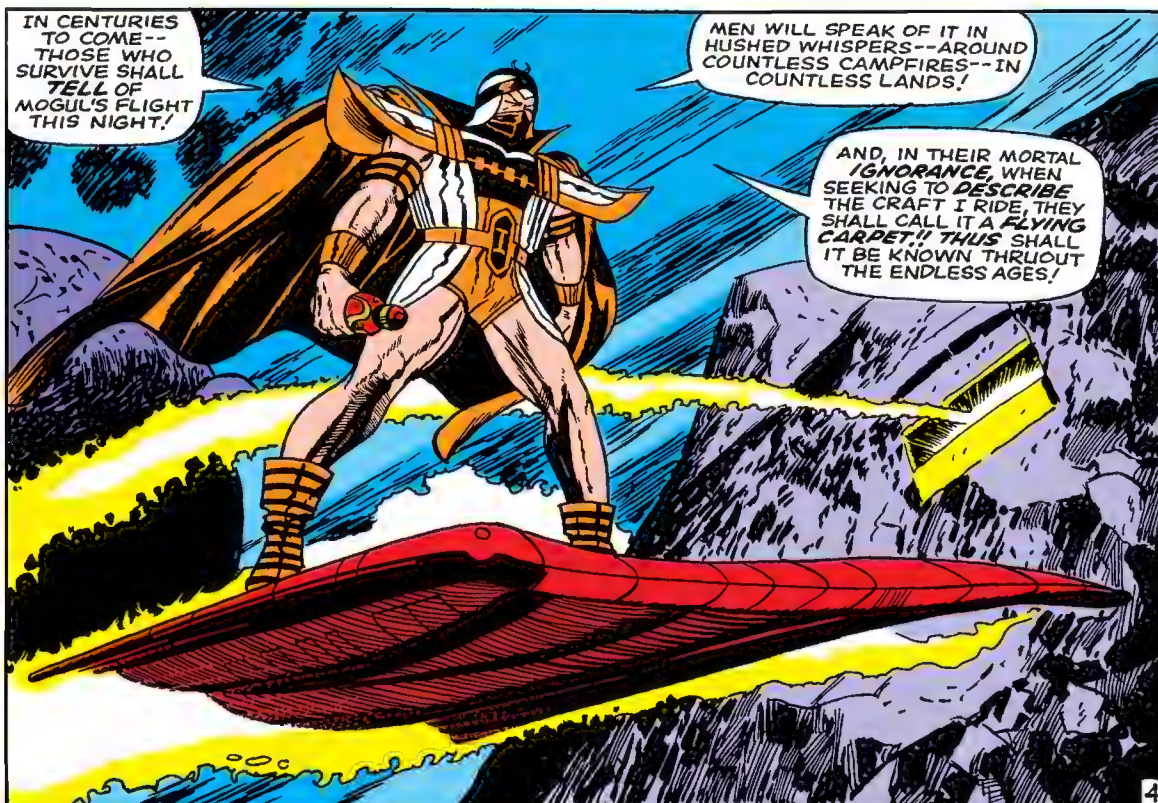
THOU HAST
SERVED THY
PURPOSE
--HENCE,
LET THEE
BEGONE!



NOW, THE VERY
HAND OF **MOGUL**
SHALL SPREAD
THE **SPOTTED**
PLAGUE
THRUOUT THE
REALM!

OPEN THEN THE DOOR
WHEREIN MY MYSTIC
FLYING **SKY-CRAFT**
STANDS!

THE TIME IS
COME FOR **SORCERY**--
FOR **WITCHERY** MOST
SINISTER!



IN CENTURIES
TO COME--
THOSE WHO
SURVIVE SHALL
TELL OF
MOGUL'S FLIGHT
THIS NIGHT!

MEN WILL SPEAK OF IT IN
HUSHED WHISPERS--AROUND
COUNTLESS CAMPFIRES--IN
COUNTLESS LANDS!

AND, IN THEIR MORTAL
IGNORANCE, WHEN
SEEKING TO **DESCRIBE**
THE CRAFT I RIDE, THEY
SHALL CALL IT A **FLYING**
CARPET!! **THUS** SHALL
IT BE KNOWN THRUOUT
THE ENDLESS AGES!

AND, AS MOGUL SOARS THRU THE SKIES OVERHEAD, THE INVADERS FROM ASGARD, LED BY THE IMPLACABLE **HOGUN THE GRIM**, DEFEAT THE LAST OF THE TYRANT'S DEFENDING LEGION--

IN THE HALLOWED NAME OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN-- WE DO STRIKE!!

BACK, YE DENIZENS OF DARKNESS!! BACK, YE PAWNS OF PLUNDER! BACK BEFORE THE MACE OF HOGUN!!



THE MACE, THE HAMMER, AND THINE OWN GLEAMING BLADE, DASHING **FANDRAL**, HAVE WON THE DAY!

NOW, NAUGHT REMAINS BUT THE HUMBLING OF MOGUL!

BUT, WHAT OF THE VOLUMINOUS **VOLSTAGG**? HATH HE BEEN TAKEN PRISONER?

NAY, SON OF ODIN! ME-THINKS HE PAUSED FOR A SMALL REPAST, AND WILL JOIN US WHEN THE BATTLE'S DONE.



BUT, **STAY!!** WHAT NEW DANGER NOW DOTH FACE US?

AN ARRAY OF CHARGING HORSEMEN-- LED BY ONE WHO CARRIES THE LOST BATTLE STANDARD OF HOGUN!

THEN MY QUEST IS NEARLY ENDED!

NO MATTER THE ODDS! WITHIN THE SPACE OF A DOZEN HEARTBEATS, YON STANDARD SHALL BE MINE! BY THE GLITTERING SPIRES OF ASGARD, THIS DO I SWEAR!

THE HORSEMEN DRAW NEARER! BEHOLD THEIR EVIL VISAGES!

HE WHO CARRIES THE STANDARD DOTH NOT LEAD THEM--HE IS BY THEM PURSUED!!

'TIS THE GRAVEST DANGER OF ALL! THOSE WHO THUNDER TOWARD US ARE DEMONS INCARNATE!

EVEN THE POWER WHICH WE POSSESS MAY BE TRAMPLED BENEATH THE HOOVES OF THOSE WHO SLAY ANY WHO LIVE!



NEXT:

"TO THE DEATH!"



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

12¢
IND.

143
AUG

THE
MIGHTY

THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY



BALDER THE BRAVE! THE EVIL ENCHANTERS!
THE STUNNING SIF! PANIC IN THE CITY!
— THIS IS *IT*, TRUE BELIEVER! —

THE MIGHTY THOR!

"-- AND, SOON SHALL COME: THE ENCHANTERS!"

WOW! I NEVER
THOUGHT THE MIGHTY
THOR WOULD COME WALTZIN'
IN HERE TO SLURP A SODA
THAT WAY!

EVEN A
THUNDER GOD
MAY FEEL THE
PANGS OF
THIRST!

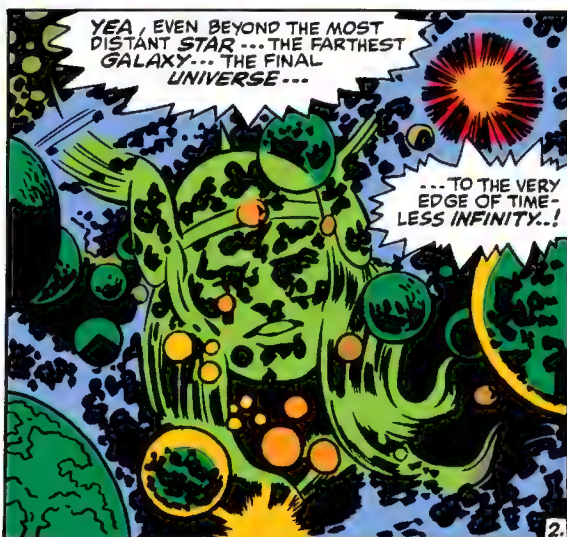
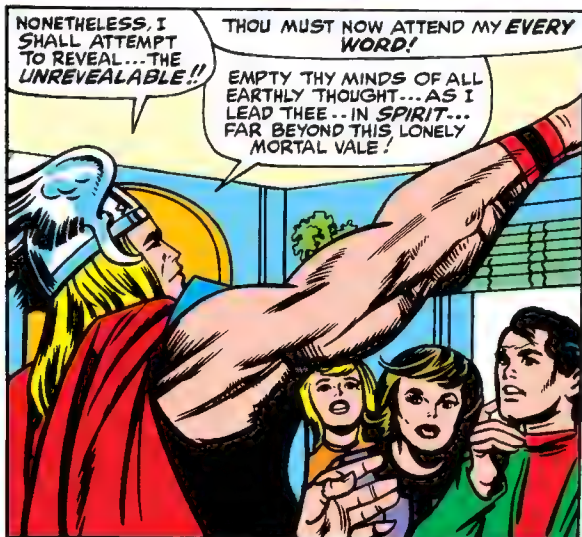
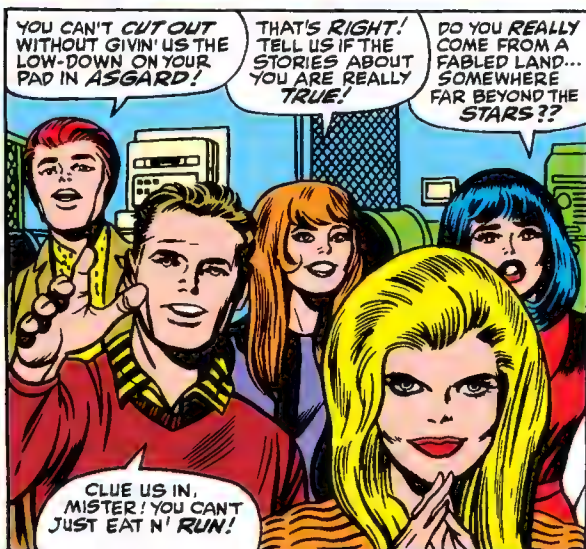
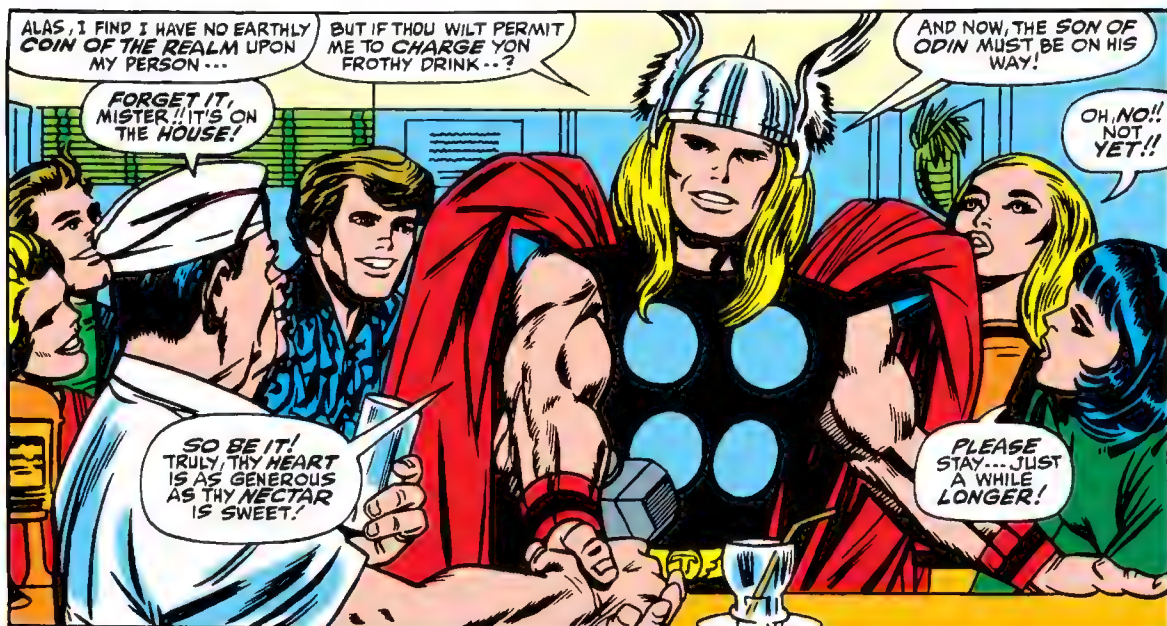
FROM NOW ON,
THAT DRINK'S
GONNA BE KNOWN
AS MY ASGARD
SPECIAL!

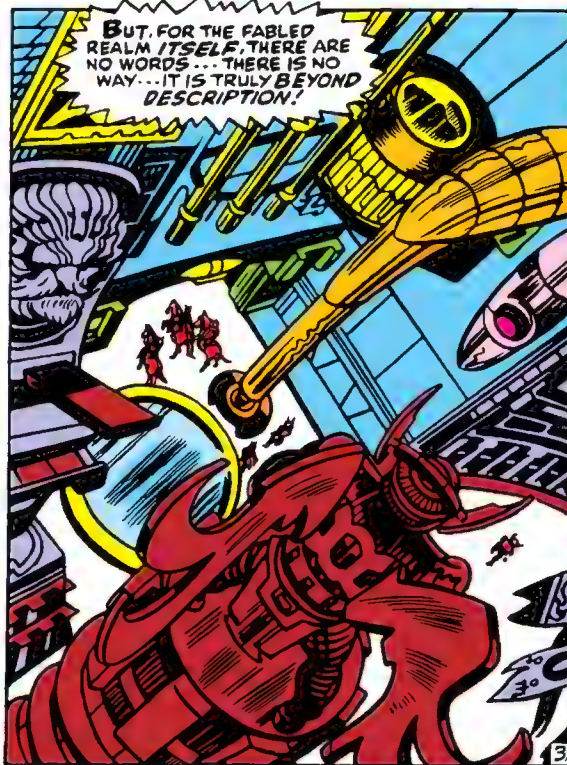
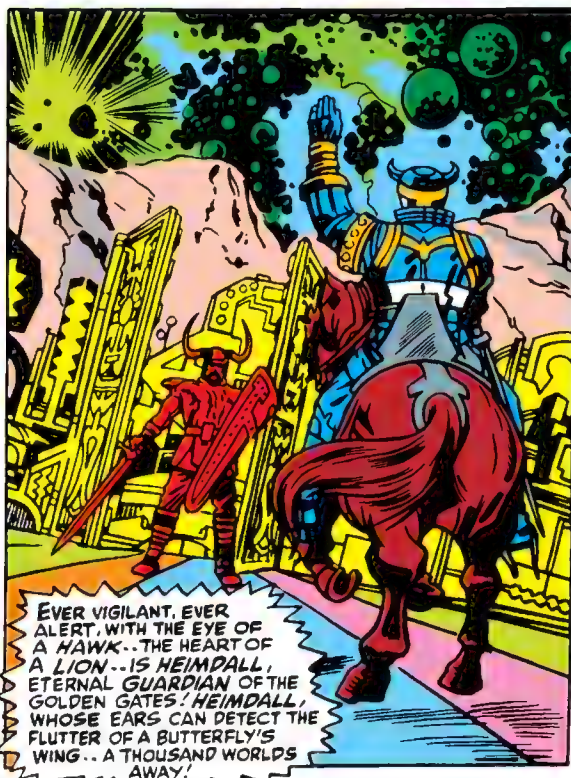
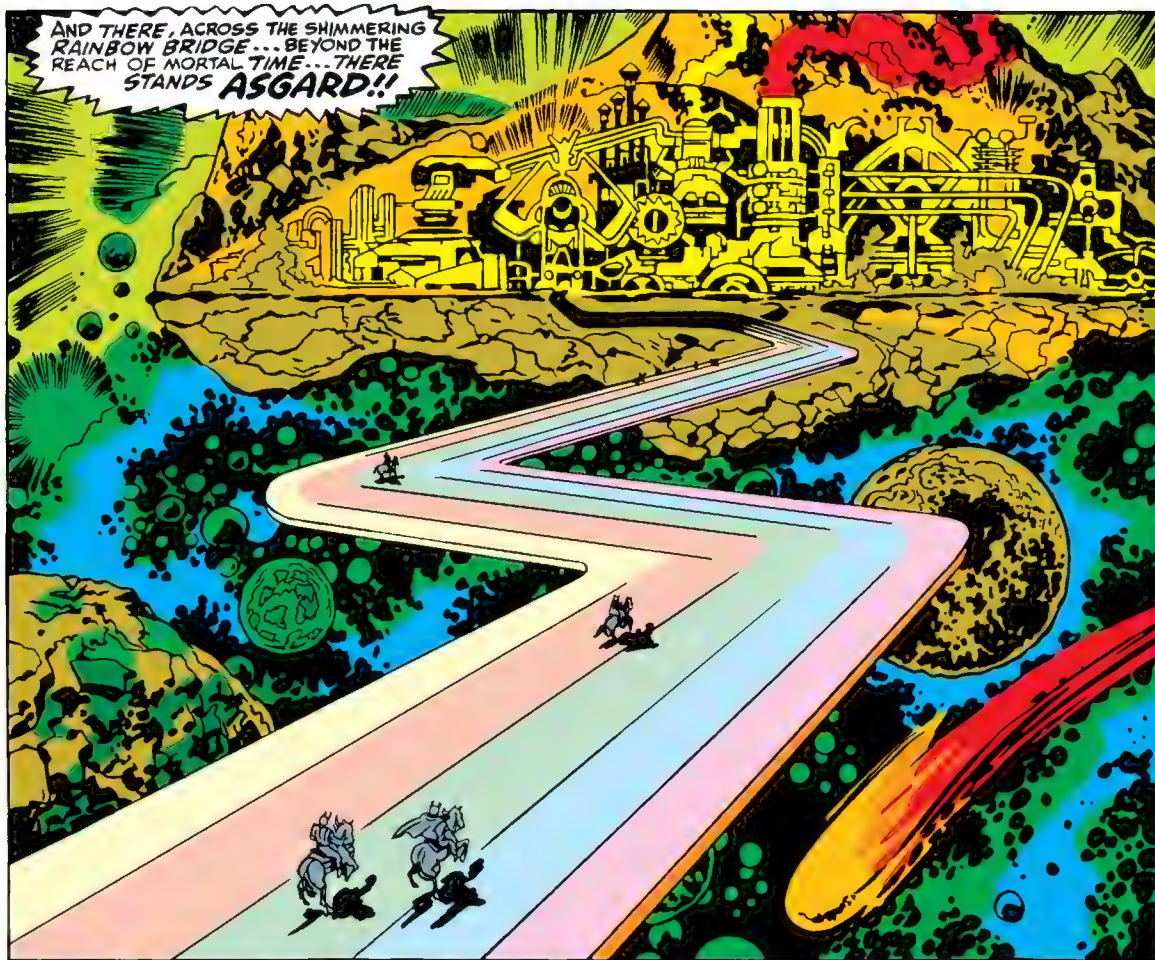
PRODUCED IN
LIVING COLOR BY:
STAN A JACK
(THE MAN) N (KING)
LEE D KIRBY

EMBELLISHED BY:
BILL EVERETT

LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN
TRUE BELIEVERS, ALL!

A STRANGE BEGINNING FOR A
SUPERHERO SAGA, THOU DOST
THINK? AHH, THOU SUSPECTEST
NOT THE GLORY AND GRANDEUR
AWAITING THEE WITHIN...





YEA, BEYOND DESCRIPTION...
EVEN AS HE WHO RULES THE
FABLED REALM IS BEYOND
DESCRIPTION...FOR HE DOTHS
SURPASS ALL UNDERSTANDING!

ODIN...
MAKER OF THE
LAW...SPEAKER
OF THE WORD
KEEPER OF THE
FAITH!!

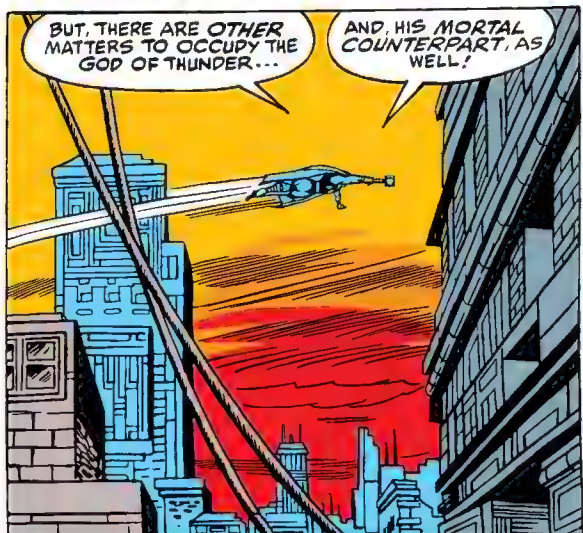
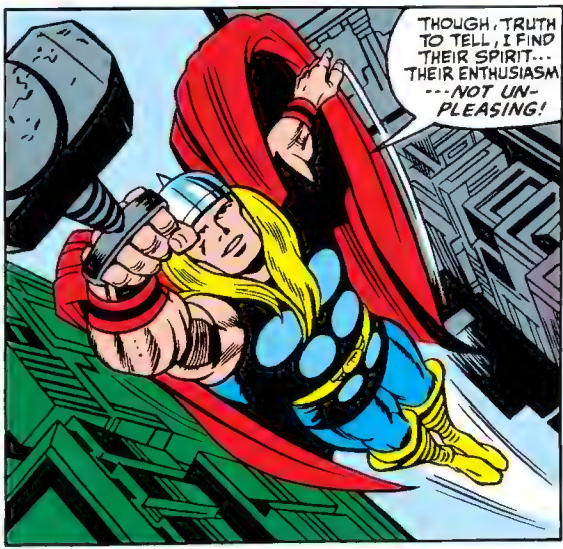
LET IT SUFFICE
TO KNOW THAT
HE BE ODIN...
THE ALL-WISE...
THE TRULY
OMNIPOTENT!!

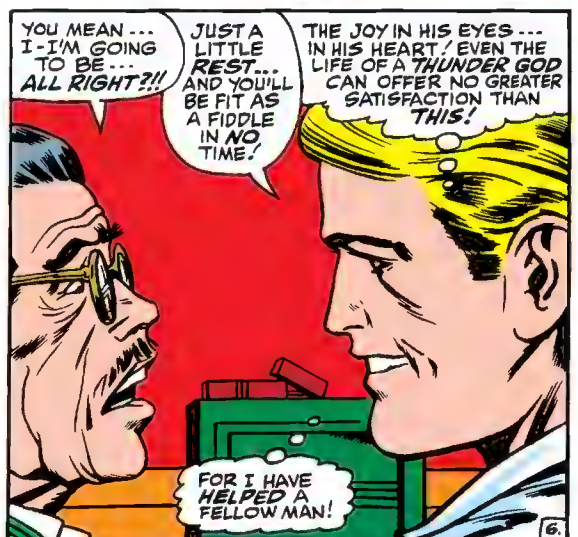
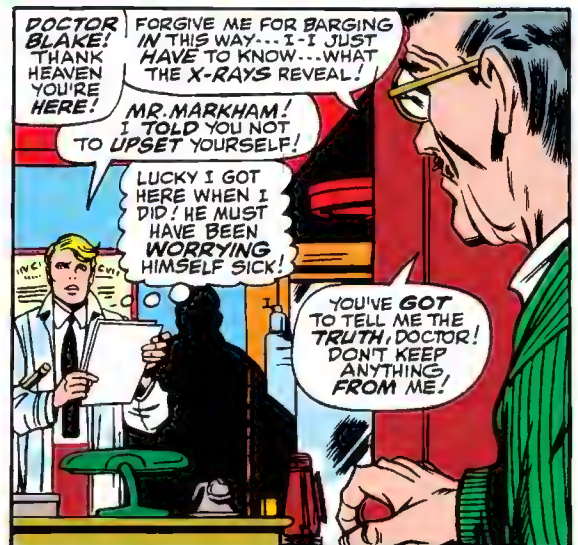
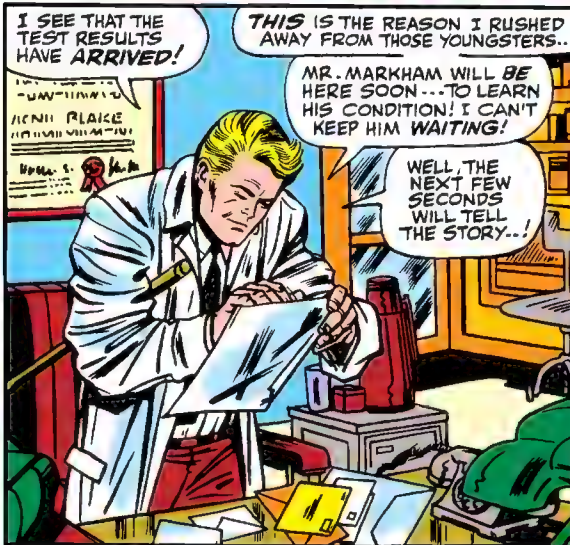
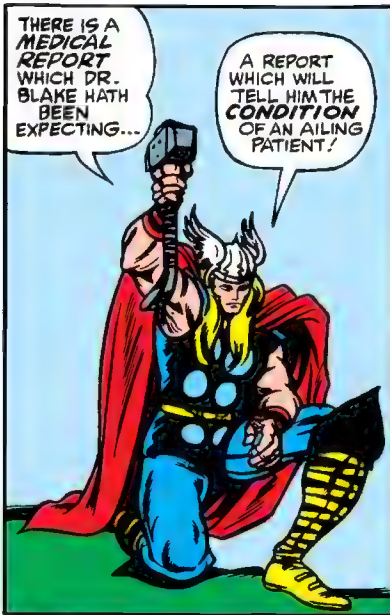
ODIN! THE
LASTING POWER...
THE LIGHTNING
WRATH... THE
LIVING
JUDGMENT!!

VERILY, HE BE
ASGARD INCARNATE!!
AND, TO THE GOD OF
THUNDER, HE BE ONE
THING MORE--

HE BE FLESH
OF MY FLESH...
BLOOD OF
MY BLOOD!!

FOR, HIM
DO I CALL...
FATHER!!





BUT AT THAT VERY INSTANT...RELATIVELY SPEAKING...IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE, AN INCALCULABLE DISTANCE AWAY...TWO VALIANT RIDERS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN AN INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE...ONE WHICH WILL SOON AFFECT DON BLAKE...AND ALL WHO LIVE FROM HERE TO INFINITY...!

WE HAVE AT LAST REACHED THE DREADED LAND OF RINGSFJORD, FAIR SIF!

'TIS HERE NOBLE ODIN SAID THE DARK ENCHANTERS WOULD BE FOUND!

THOUGH THE OMNIPOTENT ONE BE LIVING TRUTH MY HEART PRAYS THAT HE HATH THIS TIME ERRED!

FOR IF THE ENCHANTERS THREE DO TRULY ROAM THE LAND ONCE MORE...THEN ASGARD ITSELF FACES PERIL MOST DIRE!

THEIR POWER MOST FOUL COMES FROM FAR BEYOND THE REALM...AND IS SAID TO BE THE EQUAL OF ODIN'S OWN!

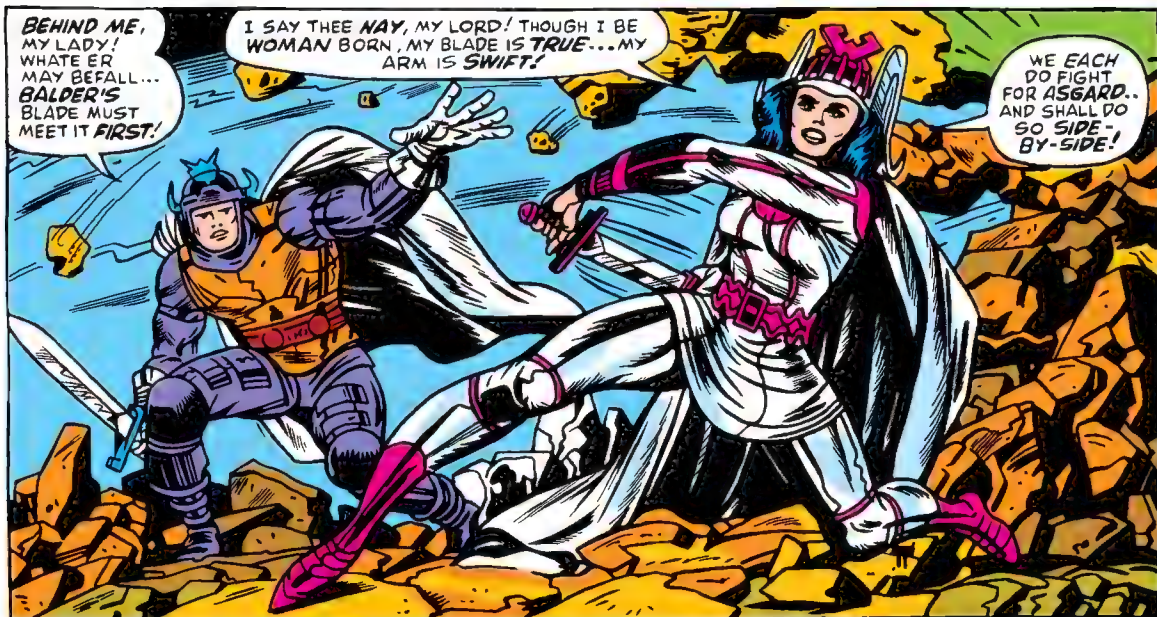
BALDER!! LOOK TO THY MOUNT! THE VERY GROUND BELOW DOETH ERUPT DENEATH OUR FEET!

'TIS THE ENCHANTERS, MY LADY!

THEY HAVE FOUND US!

ABANDON THY STEED!!

UPON OUR FEET ALONE IS A MEASURE OF SAFETY NOW TO BE FOUND!



BEHIND ME,
MY LADY!
WHATEVER
MAY BEFALL...
BALDER'S
BLADE MUST
MEET IT FIRST!

I SAY THEE **NAY**, MY LORD! THOUGH I BE
WOMAN BORN, MY BLADE IS **TRUE**...MY
ARM IS **SWIFT**!

WE EACH
DO FIGHT
FOR **ASGARD**..
AND SHALL DO
SO **SIDE-
BY-SIDE**!



IN TRUTH THOU ART
GODDESS **MOST**
FIT FOR THE
MIGHTY **SON**
OF **ODIN**!

HOW MY HEART DOTHS WISH THE LIPS
OF **THOR** WOULD MOUTH SUCH WORDS.
MY LORD!

BUT NOW... 'TIS
TIME FOR **OTHER**
MATTERS!

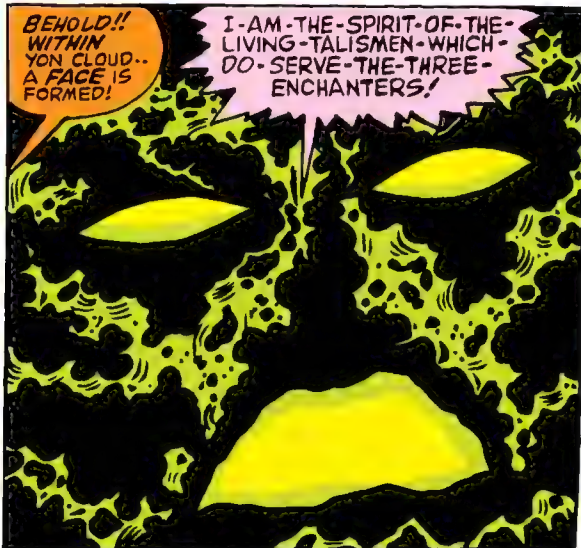
ENCHANTERS!!
HEED THE CHALLENGE
OF **BALDER**.. **STAND**
YE FORTH!!



AS THOUGH IN
ANSWER TO THY
WORDS... AN
EXPLOSION
MOST GIGANTIC
HATH OCCURRED!

AND A
CLOUD
TAKES
SHAPE
ABOVE
US...

A CLOUD
OF **EVIL**..
GROWING
DARKER
THAN THE
BLACKEST
NIGHT!



BEHOLD!!
WITHIN
YON CLOUD...
A **FACE** IS
FORMED!

I-AM-THE-SPIRIT-OF-THE-
LIVING-TALISMEN-**WHICH-**
DO-SERVE-THE-THREE-
ENCHANTERS!



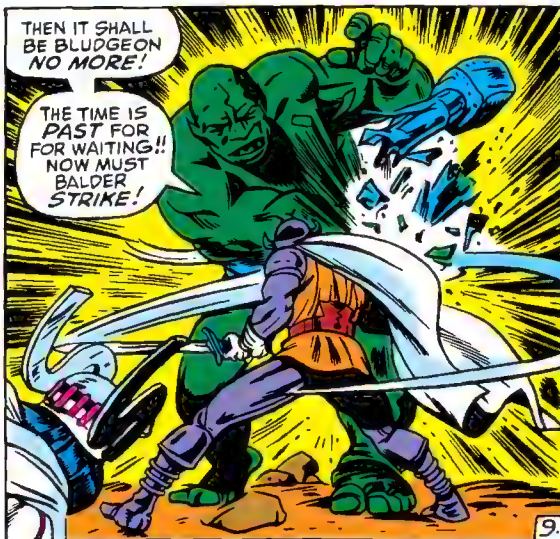
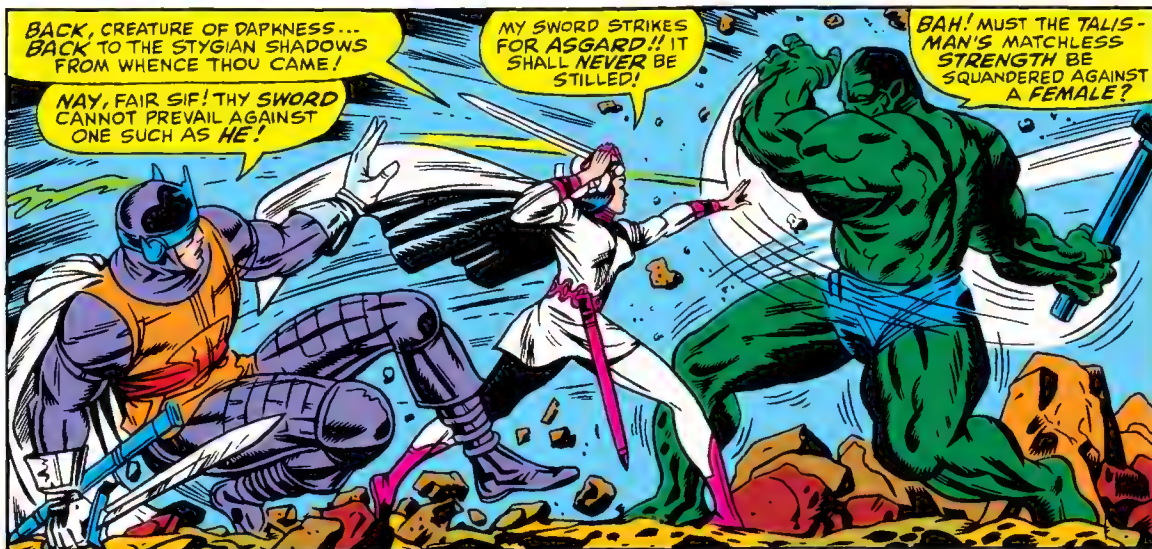
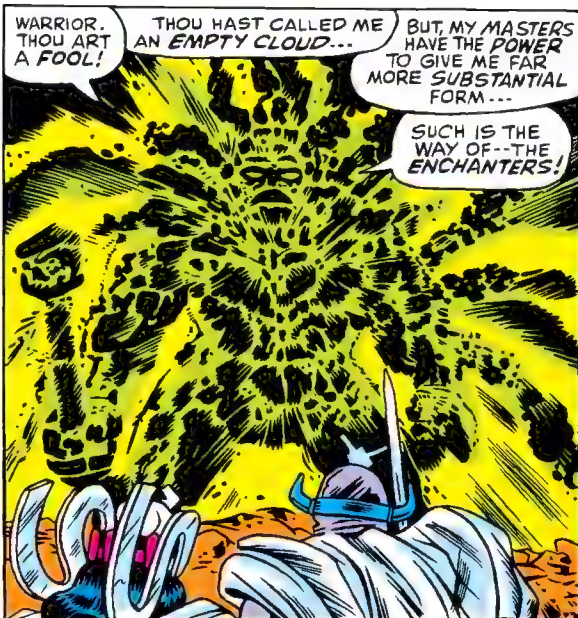
AND I AM
BALDER...
WARRIOR OF
ASGARD!

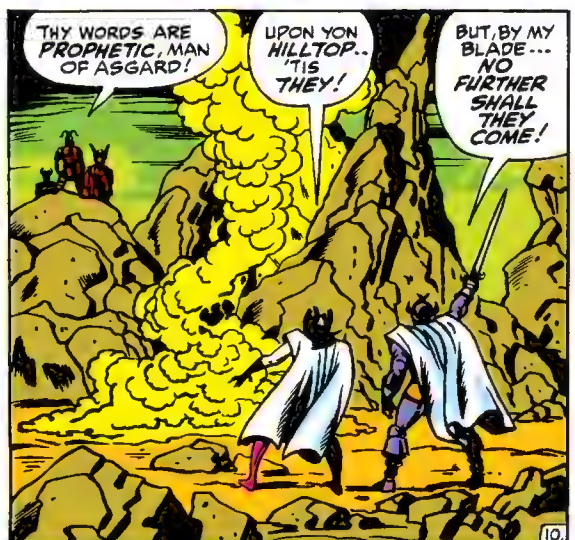
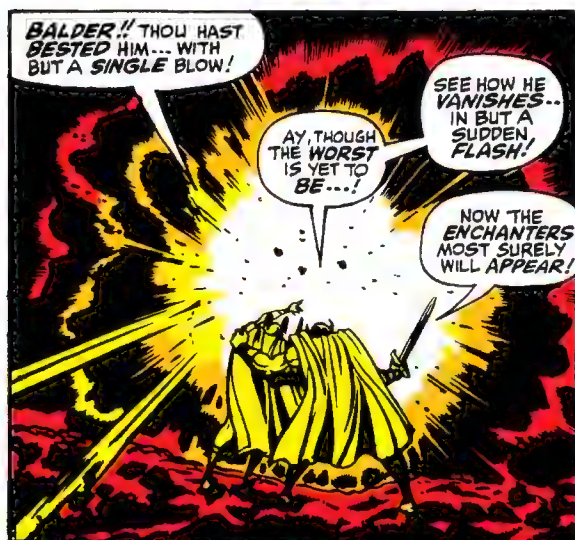
BE THE ENCHANTERS SO
COWARDLY THAT THEY SEND
NAUGHT BUT AN EMPTY
CLOUD TO OPPOSE US??

DO NOT SEEK TO
ANGER HIM, MY
LORD!

THE TALISMEN ARE
POSSESSED OF
POWER BEYOND
OUR COMPRE-
HENSION!

NO MATTER!
THE GAUNTLET
HATH BEEN **FLUNG**!
NOW **STAND** WE **FAST**!





TWO SUCH AS
THEE CANNOT
STOP US...
FOR WE DO WEAR
THE LIVING
TALISMEN!

KNOW YOU THAT I BE **MAGNIR**...
IN COMPANY WITH MY FELLOWS,
FORSUNG...AND **BRONA**!!

REMEMBER THOSE NAMES AND
TREMBLE, ASGARDIAN... FOR
WE ARE THE THREE WHO SOON
SHALL HUMBLE **ODIN**
HIMSELF!

FOR
COUNTLESS
AGES, WE HAVE
BEEN CONTENT
TO RULE OUR OWN
DOMAIN... BUT,
WE BE CONTENT
NO LONGER!

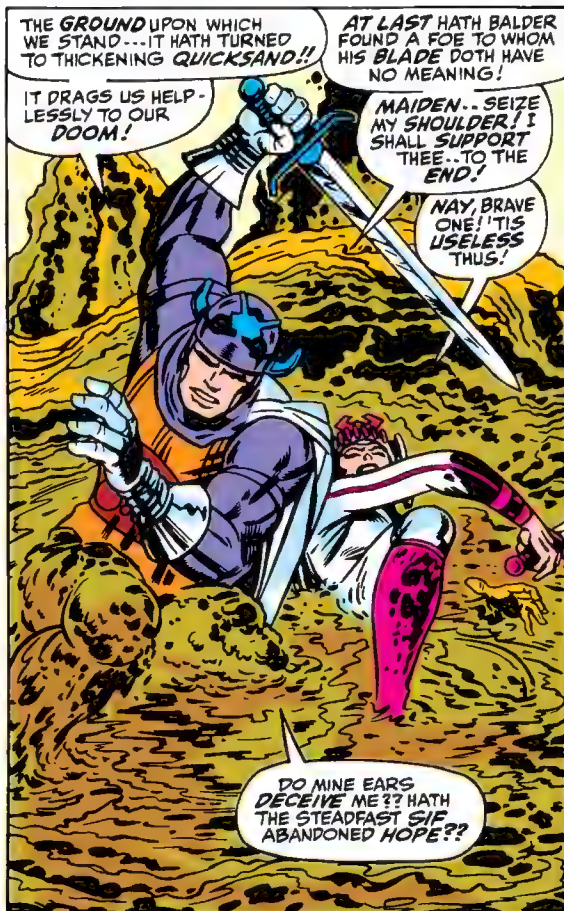
WE THREE, WHO WEAR
THE **LIVING TALISMEN**,
POSSESS POWER BEYOND
MEASURE... POWER ENOW
TO CONQUER ALL WHO
LIVE!

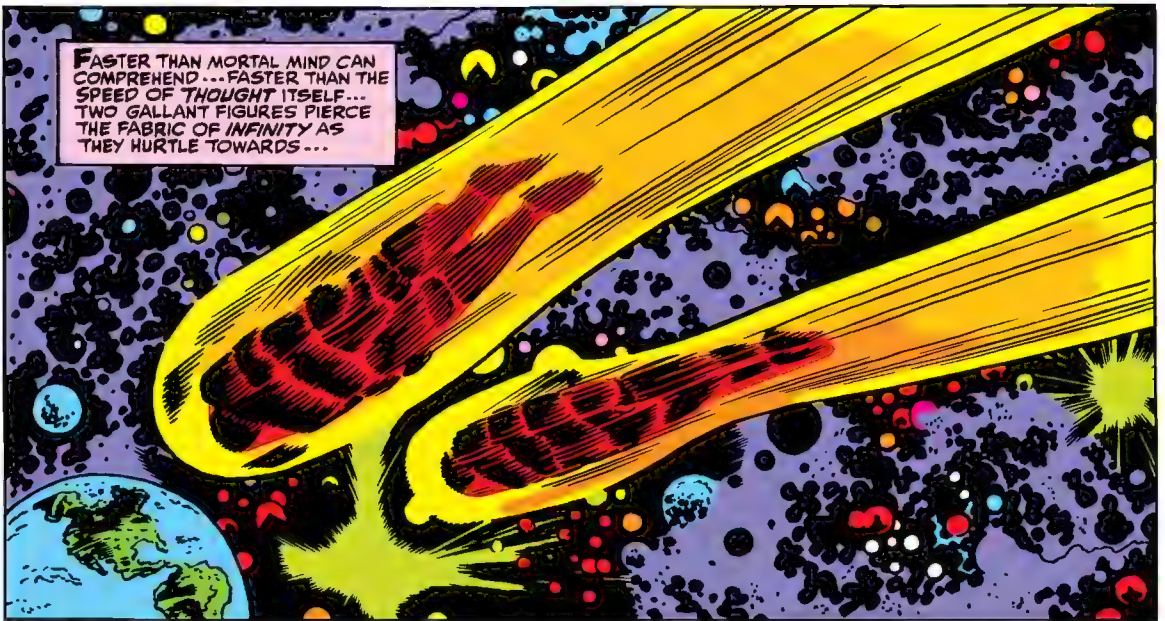
FOR OURS IS THE
LIMITLESS POWER
OF...THE **ENCHANTERS**!

WHY WASTE
WE WORDS
ON SUCH AS
THEY?

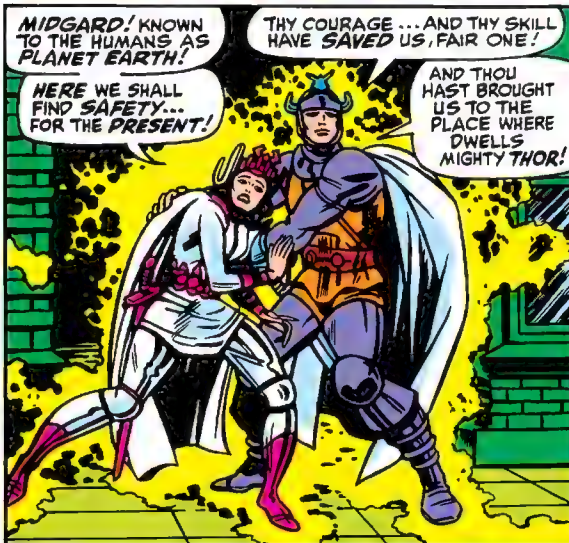
WE CAN
DESTROY
THEM WITH
A WORD...
WITH THE
SLIGHTEST
GLANCE...!







FASTER THAN MORTAL MIND CAN COMPREHEND...FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF THOUGHT ITSELF... TWO GALLANT FIGURES PIERCE THE FABRIC OF INFINITY AS THEY HURTLE TOWARDS...



MIDGARD! KNOWN TO THE HUMANS AS PLANET EARTH!

THY COURAGE... AND THY SKILL HAVE SAVED US, FAIR ONE!

HERE WE SHALL FIND SAFETY... FOR THE PRESENT!

AND THOU HAST BROUGHT US TO THE PLACE WHERE DWELLS MIGHTY THOR!



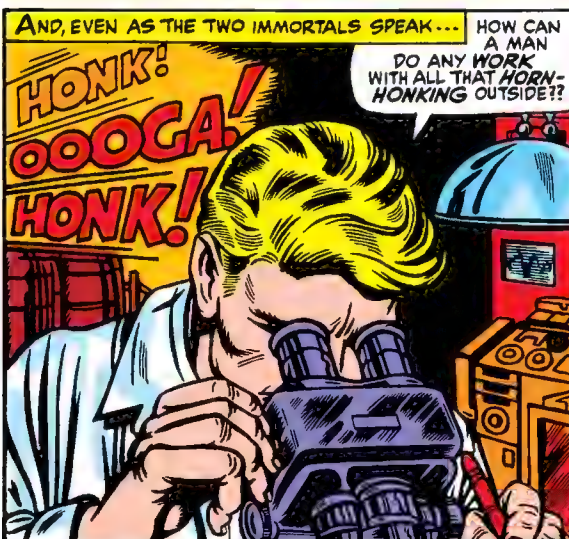
WE MUST FIND HIM, BALDER!

AY, MY LADY!

BUT, HERE AMONGST THE HUMANS, HE DOTHT DWELL IN SECRET MORTAL GUISE!

FOR, WHILST THE ENCHANTERS LIVE... WE MOST SORELY NEED HIS STRENGTH, HIS WISDOM... HIS KNOWLEDGE!

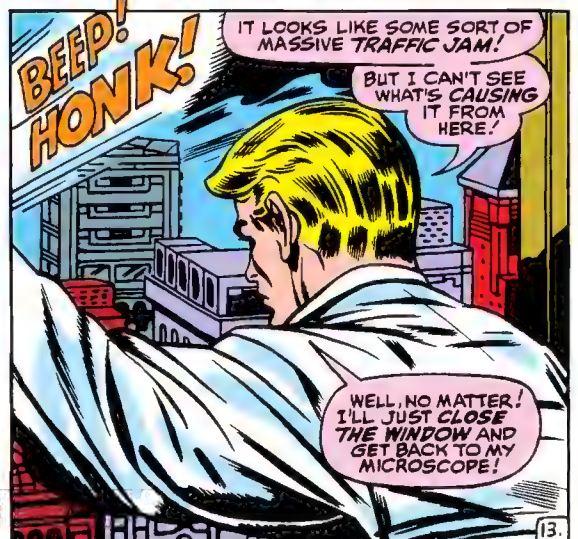
'T WILL BE EASIER BY FAR FOR HIM TO LOCATE US!



AND, EVEN AS THE TWO IMMORTALS SPEAK...

HOW CAN A MAN DO ANY WORK WITH ALL THAT HORN-HONKING OUTSIDE??

HONK!
OOOGA!
HONK!

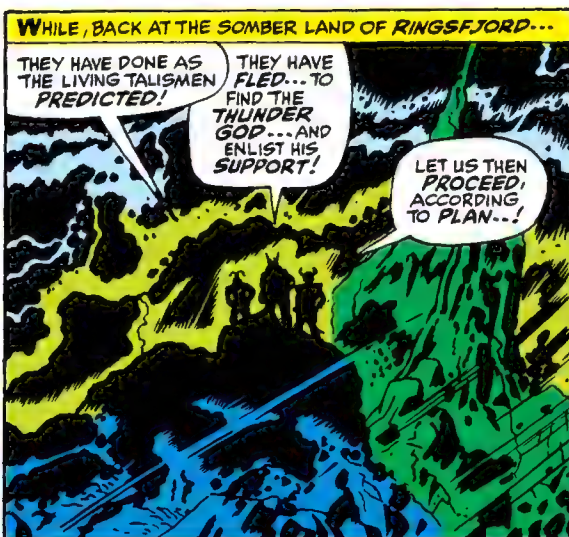
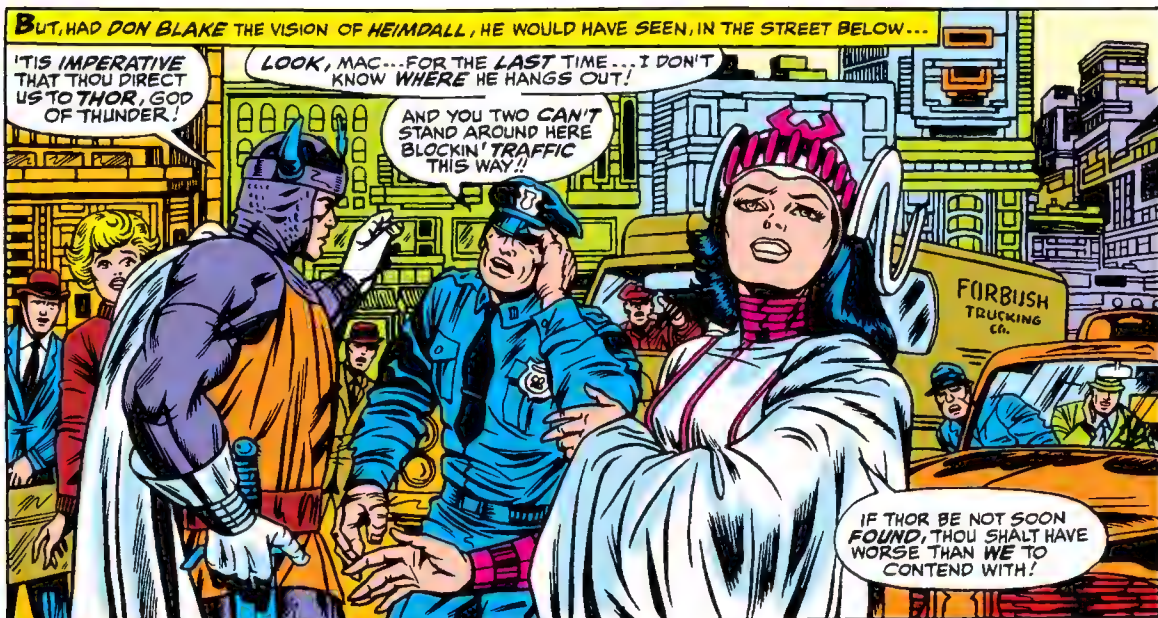


BEEP!
HONK!

IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF MASSIVE TRAFFIC JAM!

BUT I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S CAUSING IT FROM HERE!

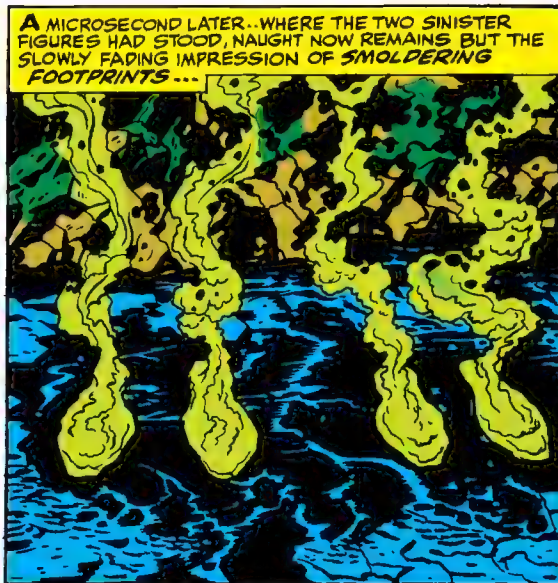
WELL, NO MATTER! I'LL JUST CLOSE THE WINDOW AND GET BACK TO MY MICROSCOPE!



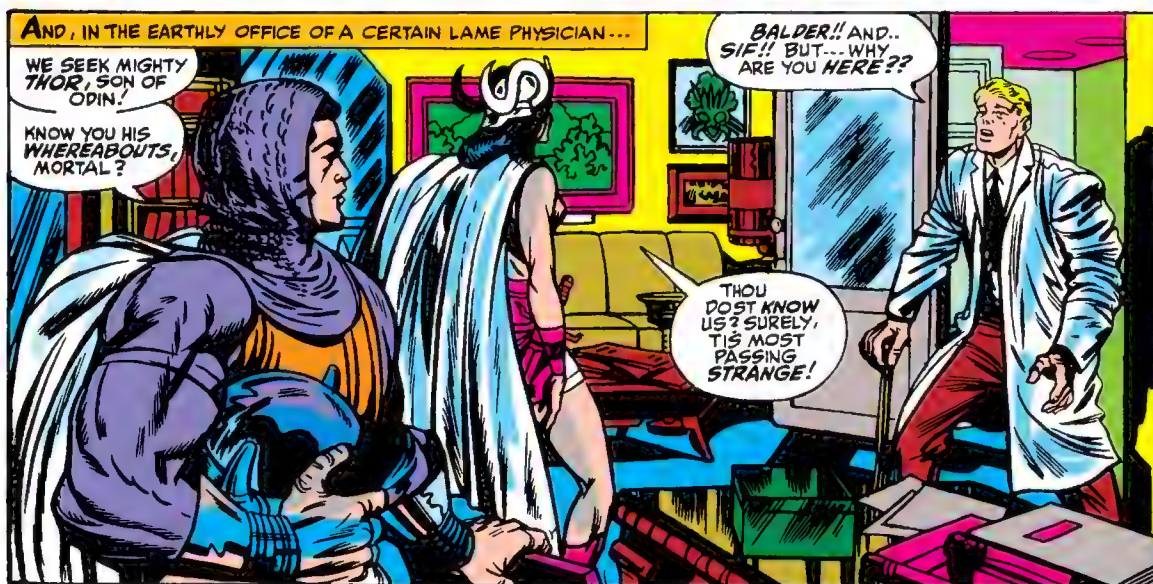


BY THE POWER OF
THE **LIVING**
TALISMEN...
LET THE **FRIGID**
FIRE NOW
CONSUME
US!

TO **EARTH**
THEN, **MAGNIR**...
AND THE **DEATH**
OF **THOR**!



**A MICROSECOND LATER..WHERE THE TWO SINISTER
FIGURES HAD STOOD, NAUGHT NOW REMAINS BUT THE
SLOWLY FADING IMPRESSION OF SMOLDERING
FOOTPRINTS ...**



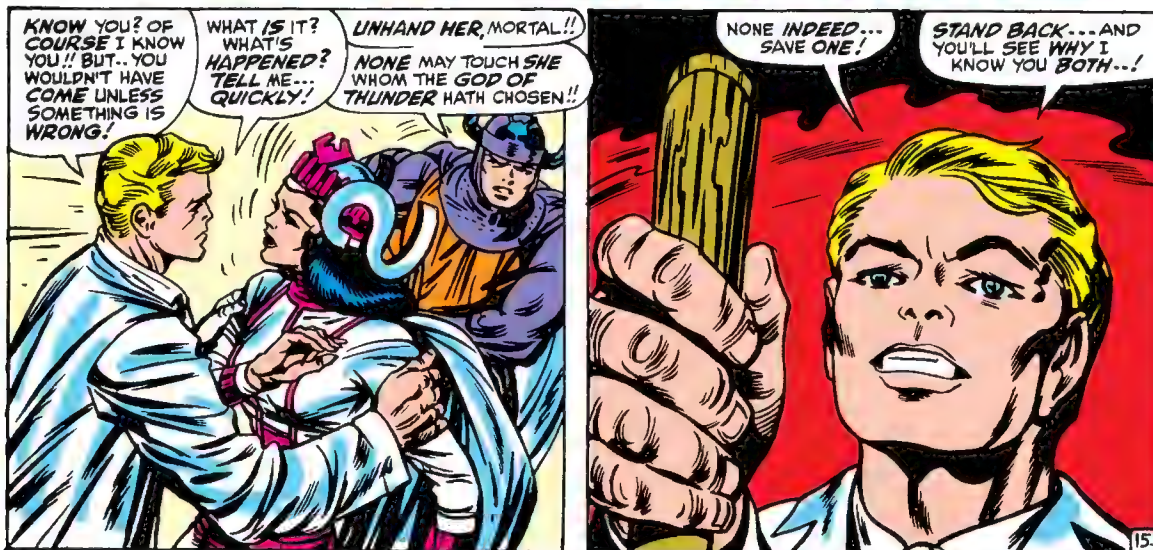
AND, IN THE EARTHLY OFFICE OF A CERTAIN LAME PHYSICIAN ...

WE SEEK MIGHTY
THOR, SON OF
ODIN!

KNOW YOU HIS
WHEREABOUTS,
MORTAL?

**BALDER!! AND..
SIF!! BUT... WHY
ARE YOU HERE??**

THOU
DOST KNOW
US? SURELY,
T'IS MOST
PASSING
STRANGE!



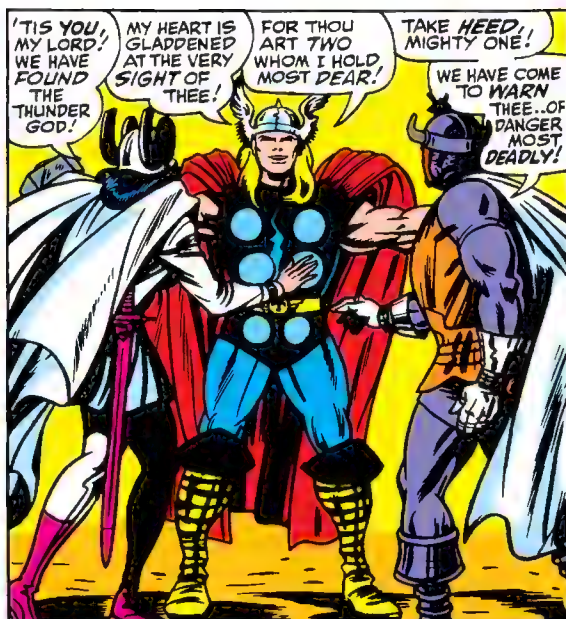
KNOW YOU? OF
COURSE I KNOW
YOU!! BUT... YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
COME UNLESS
SOMETHING IS
WRONG!

WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S
HAPPENED?
TELL ME...
QUICKLY!

UNHAND HER, MORTAL!!
NONE MAY TOUCH SHE
WHOM THE GOD OF
THUNDER HATH CHOSEN!!

NONE INDEED...
SAVE ONE!

STAND BACK... AND
YOU'LL SEE WHY I
KNOW YOU BOTH...!



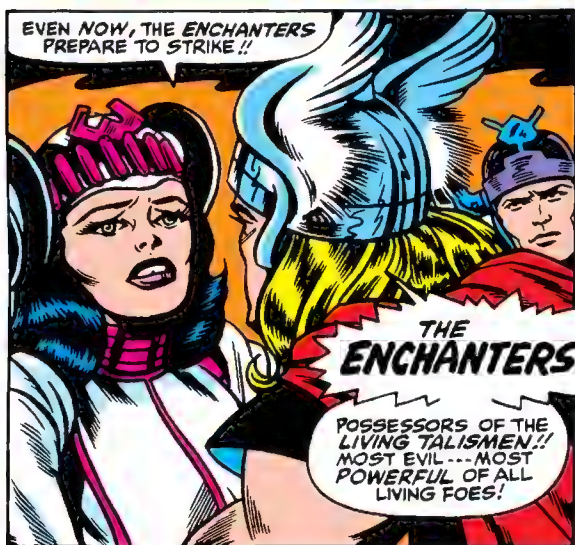
'TIS YOU, MY LORD, WE HAVE FOUND THE THUNDER GOD!

MY HEART IS GLADDENED AT THE VERY SIGHT OF THEE!

FOR THOU ART TWO WHOM I HOLD MOST DEAR!

TAKE HEED, MIGHTY ONE!

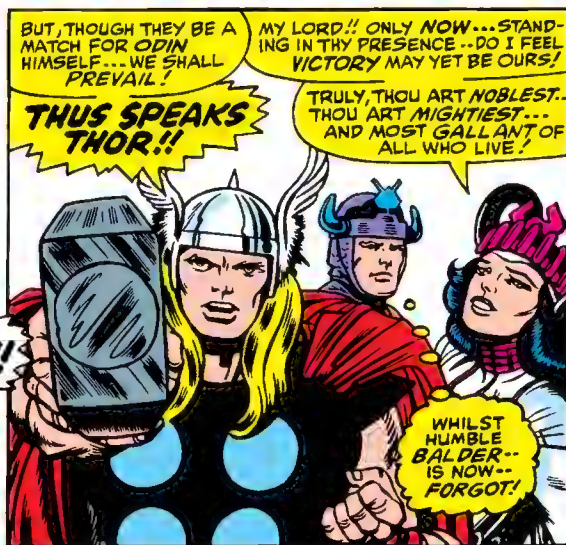
WE HAVE COME TO WARN THEE...OF DANGER MOST DEADLY!



EVEN NOW, THE ENCHANTERS PREPARE TO STRIKE!!

THE ENCHANTERS!!

POSSESSORS OF THE LIVING TALISMEN!! MOST EVIL... MOST POWERFUL OF ALL LIVING FOES!



BUT, THOUGH THEY BE A MATCH FOR ODIN HIMSELF... WE SHALL PREVAIL!

MY LORD!! ONLY NOW...STANDING IN THY PRESENCE...DO I FEEL VICTORY MAY YET BE OURS!

THUS SPEAKS THOR!!

TRULY, THOU ART NOBLEST... THOU ART MIGHTIEST... AND MOST GALLANT OF ALL WHO LIVE!

WHILST HUMBLE BALDER-- IS NOW-- FORGOT!



THOUGH THEY BE TOO GENEROUS BY FAR, THY WORDS DO SURELY WARM MY HEART!

BUT WHAT OF THEE, LOYAL BALDER? WHY STANDEST THOU SO SILENT?

HAST THOU NO RALLYING CRY UPON THIS EVE OF BATTLE?

NAY, THUNDER GOD! I HAVE MUCH TO THINK UPON!



AND, AS NOBLE BALDER GAZES SOMBERLY AHEAD, TWO FLASHING OBJECTS STREAK THROUGH THE SKY...



...FINALLY LANDING, AND RESHAPING THEMSELVES INTO THE AWESOME FIGURES OF...THE ENCHANTERS!!

NEXT:
"THIS BATTLEGROUND EARTH!"

TALES OF **ASGARD**, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS

TO THE DEATH!

WHILE THOR, HOGUN, AND FANDRAL FACE THE DREADED FORTY HORSEMEN OF SATAN-- SET UPON THEM BY THE FIENDISH **MOGUL**-- VOLUMINOUS **VOLSTAGG** EMPLOYS HIS OWN FATAL CHARM IN ATTEMPTING TO LEARN WHERE **MOGUL** MAY BE FOUND--

BY MY BEARD! I HAVE MET WITH GREATER SUCCESS THAN I DARED HOPE!

YON FLIRTATIOUS FEMALE IS SISTER TO **MOGUL** OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!

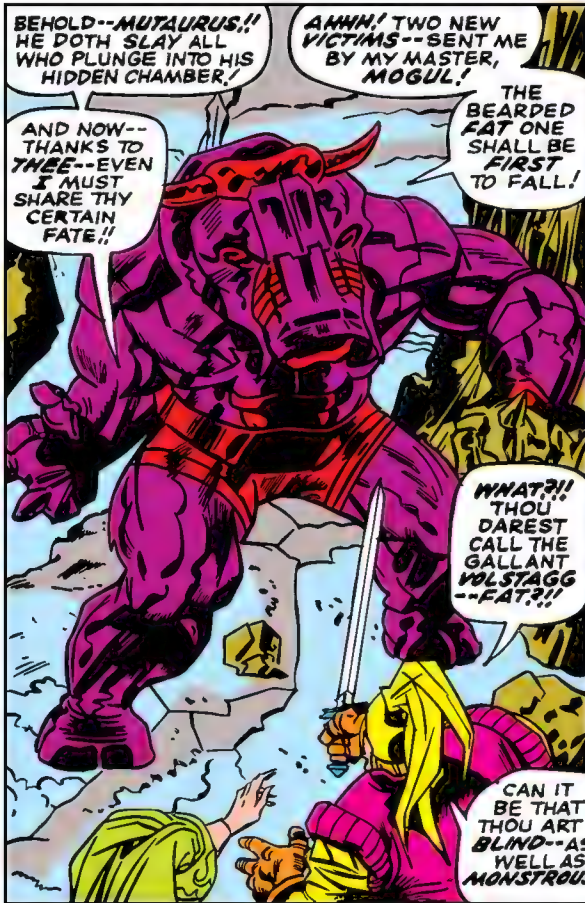
THOU ART TO BE CONGRATULATED, FAIR LADY! THOU HAST WON THE FAVOR OF VALIANT **VOLSTAGG**, HIMSELF!

THOU TOO SHOULD BE CONGRATULATED, FOR-- **STAN** (THE MAN) **LEE** and **JACK** (KING) **KIRBY**

PLUS: BILL EVERETT, EMBELLISHER
AND: ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

-- HAVE CREATED YON SAGA JUST FOR THEE!





BEHOLD--MUTAUROS!! HE DOTH SLAY ALL WHO PLUNGE INTO HIS HIDDEN CHAMBER!

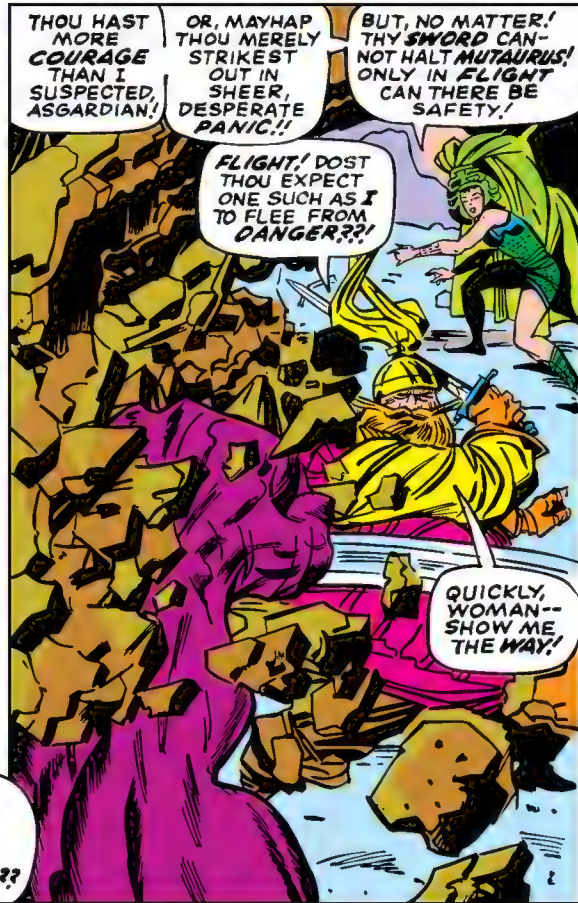
AHHN! TWO NEW VICTIMS--SENT ME BY MY MASTER, MOGUL!

AND NOW-- THANKS TO THEE--EVEN I MUST SHARE THY CERTAIN FATE!!

THE BEARDED FAT ONE SHALL BE FIRST TO FALL!

WHAT?! THOU DAREST CALL THE GALLANT VOLSTAGG--FAT?!

CAN IT BE THAT THOU ART BLIND--AS WELL AS MONSTROUS?!



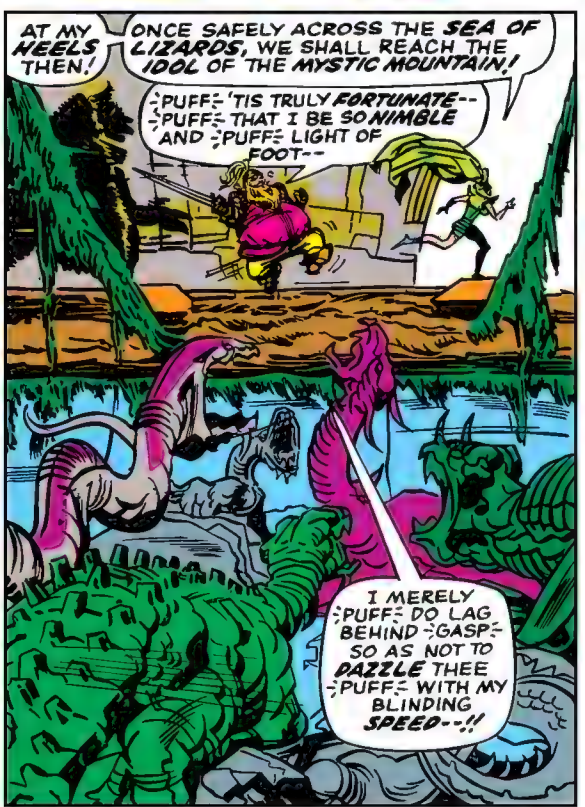
THOU HAST MORE COURAGE THAN I SUSPECTED, ASGARDIAN!

OR, MAYHAP THOU MERELY STRIKEST OUT IN SHEER, DESPERATE PANIC!!

BUT, NO MATTER! THY SWORD CAN--NOT HALT MUTAUROS! ONLY IN FLIGHT CAN THERE BE SAFETY!

FLIGHT! DOST THOU EXPECT ONE SUCH AS I TO FLEE FROM DANGER??!

QUICKLY, WOMAN-- SHOW ME THE WAY!



AT MY HEELS THEN! ONCE SAFELY ACROSS THE SEA OF LIZARDS, WE SHALL REACH THE IDOL OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN!

-PUFF- 'TIS TRULY FORTUNATE--
-PUFF- THAT I BE SO NIMBLE
AND -PUFF- LIGHT OF FOOT--

I MERELY -PUFF- DO LAG BEHIND -GASP- SO AS NOT TO PAZZLE THEE -PUFF- WITH MY BLINDING SPEED--!!



WE HAVE REACHED THE IDOL--

AND THIS IS WHAT WE SEEK--THE ENCHANTED ROD OF WONDROUS WIZARD POWER!!

STAND THEE BACK, BESTIAL MUTAUROS!!

MIGHTY VOLSTAGG HATH TRULY TOYED WITH THEE LONG ENOW!!

THE ENCHANTED ROD--
IT DOTHT FIRE BOLTS
OF WIZARD-FORCE
WITH FURY ABSOLUTE!!

THE POWER IT
CONTAINS IS
OVERWHELMING!!
I CAN HOLD IT
NO LONGER!!

THEN
STAND
THEE
ASIDE,
WOMAN--

--AS
HEROIC
VOLSTAGG
DOTHT
THUNDER
TO THE
RESCUE!

ODDS BLOOD!! NOT EVEN
THE POWERFUL LIMBS OF
VOLSTAGG CAN CONTROL
THE ENCHANTED ROD!!

IT DOTHT
SPIN WILDLY
IN MINE
ARMS LIKE
A MADDENED
LIVING
THING--!!

IT HATH STRUCK
MUTAMORUS!! HE
FADES FROM
SIGHT BEFORE OUR
VERY EYES!

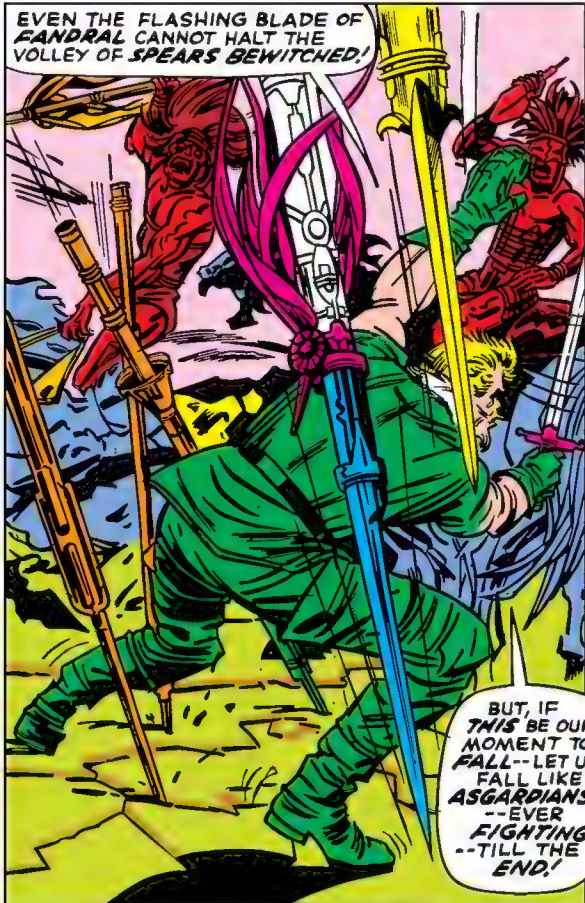
HAH! THE SAVAGE
SKILL AND EAGLE
EYE OF VOLSTAGG
HAVE TRIUMPHED
ONCE AGAIN!

BUT, EVEN AS OUR GELATINOUS
GIANT PROUDLY PROCLAIMS HIS
VICTORY, HIS THREE FELLOW
WARRIORS ARE FACING THE DEADLY
CHARGE OF SATAN'S FORTY
HORSEMEN--!

WE ARE THE DEMON RIDERS,
CONJURED INTO EXISTENCE
BY THE MYSTIC SORCERY OF
MOGUL!!

NOTHING THAT
LIVES CAN STAND
BEFORE US!! AND
WE CAN NEVER
DIE!

THOU SHALT
BE STOPPED
--SOMEHOW
--SOME WAY
--HOGUN
DOTHT NOT
YIELD!!



EVEN THE FLASHING BLADE OF **FANDRAL** CANNOT HALT THE VOLLEY OF **SPEARS BEWITCHED!**

BUT, IF **THIS** BE OUR MOMENT TO **FALL**--LET US FALL LIKE **ASGARDIANS**--EVER **FIGHTING**--TILL THE **END!**



NAY!! WE MUST NOT FALL!! WE CANNOT FALL!! NOT TILL THE BATTLE STANDARD BE MINE AGAIN--!

NOT TILL THE MURDEROUS MOGUL HATH ANSWERED TO NOGUN FOR HIS DEEDS MOST DARK!!



SINCE THEY BE NOT **TRULY ALIVE**--THE **HORSEMEN** CAN NOT FEEL THE **STING OF DEATH!!**

YET, WE SHALL **FIND** A MEANS TO **VANQUISH** THEM!!

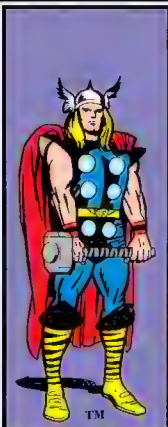


THUS SPEAKS THE SON OF ODIN!!

THUS SHALL THE VERY FRUIT OF ASGARD

BATTLE UNTO DEATH!!

NEXT: THE BEGINNING OF THE END!



THE MIGHTY THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

12¢ 144
IND. SEPT

FOR
ASGARD!

THE ONE
YOU'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR!



"THIS
BATTLEGROUND
EARTH!"

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

"THIS BATTLEGROUND EARTH!"



**KNOW
YE ALL...!!**

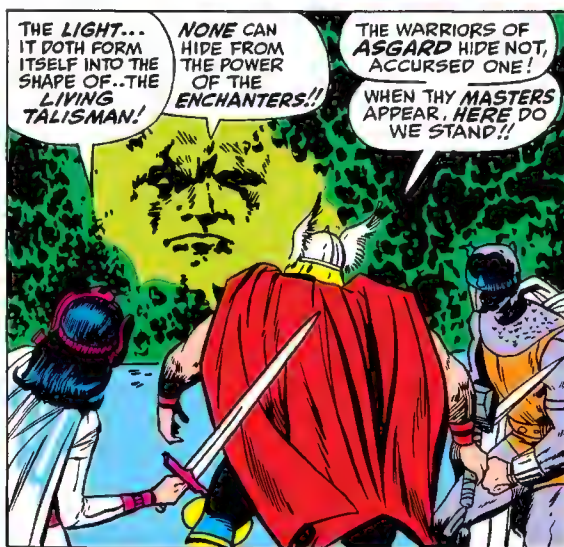
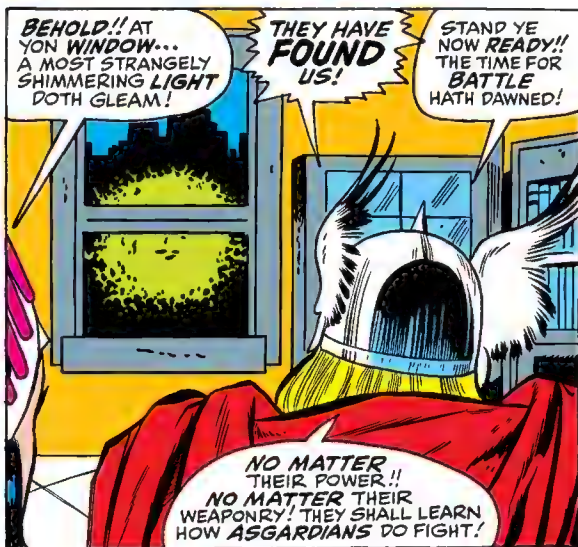
TWO OF THE THREE
EVIL ENCHANTERS
HAVE LANDED UPON
OUR MORTAL
PLANET, TO
DESTROY THE
MIGHTY THOR...
WHILST THE
THIRD HAS
DARED ENTER
ASGARD, TO
CHALLENGE
THE REIGN OF
ODIN HIMSELF!
BUT BALDER
THE BRAVE
AND THE STUNNING
SIF HAVE
MANAGED TO
REACH THOR
FIRST, BRINGING
HIM A
WARNING!

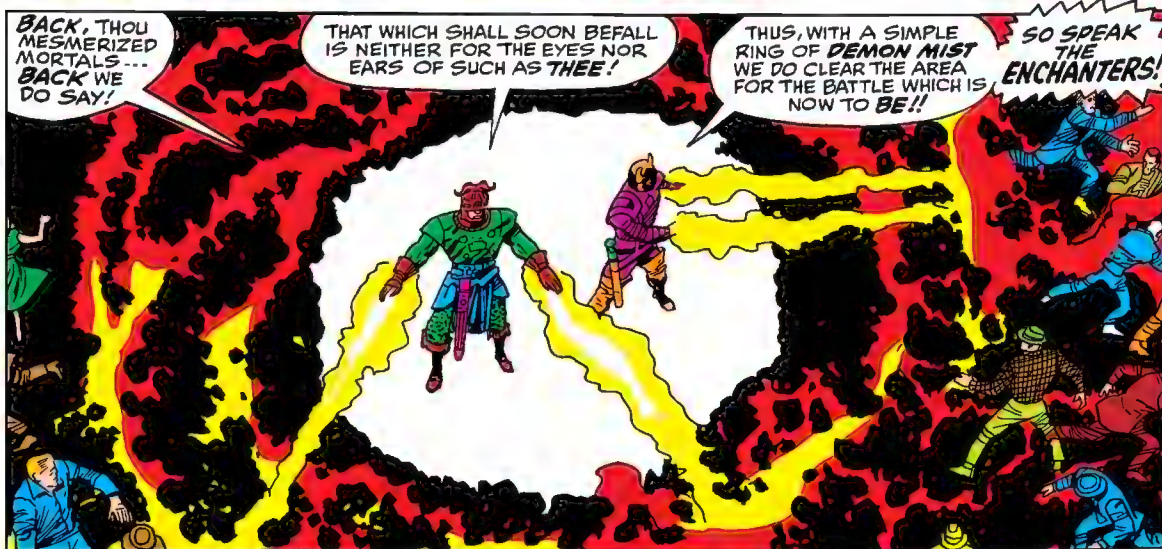
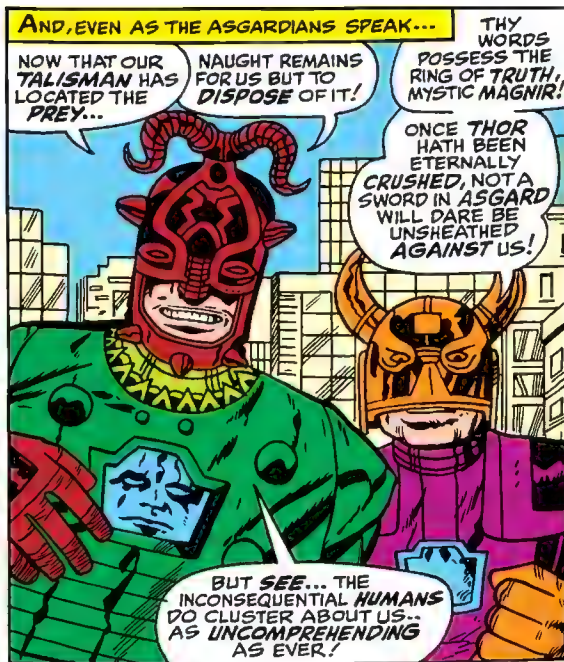
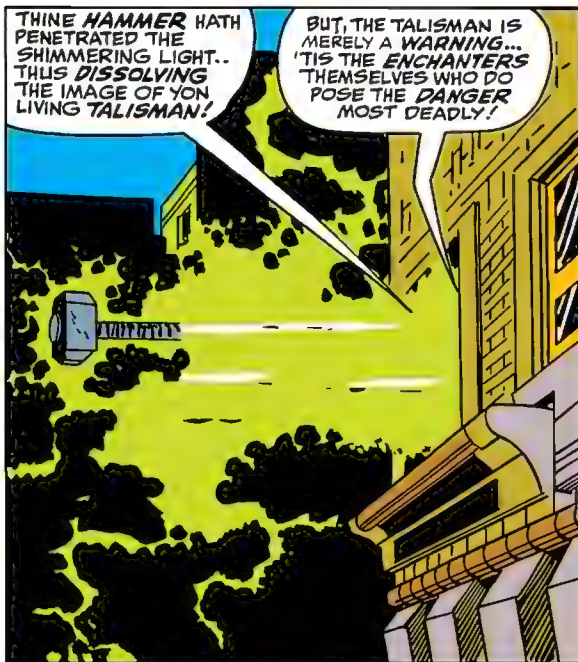
VERILY,
THOU HAST
BEEN MOST
COMPLETELY
**CLUED-
IN!**

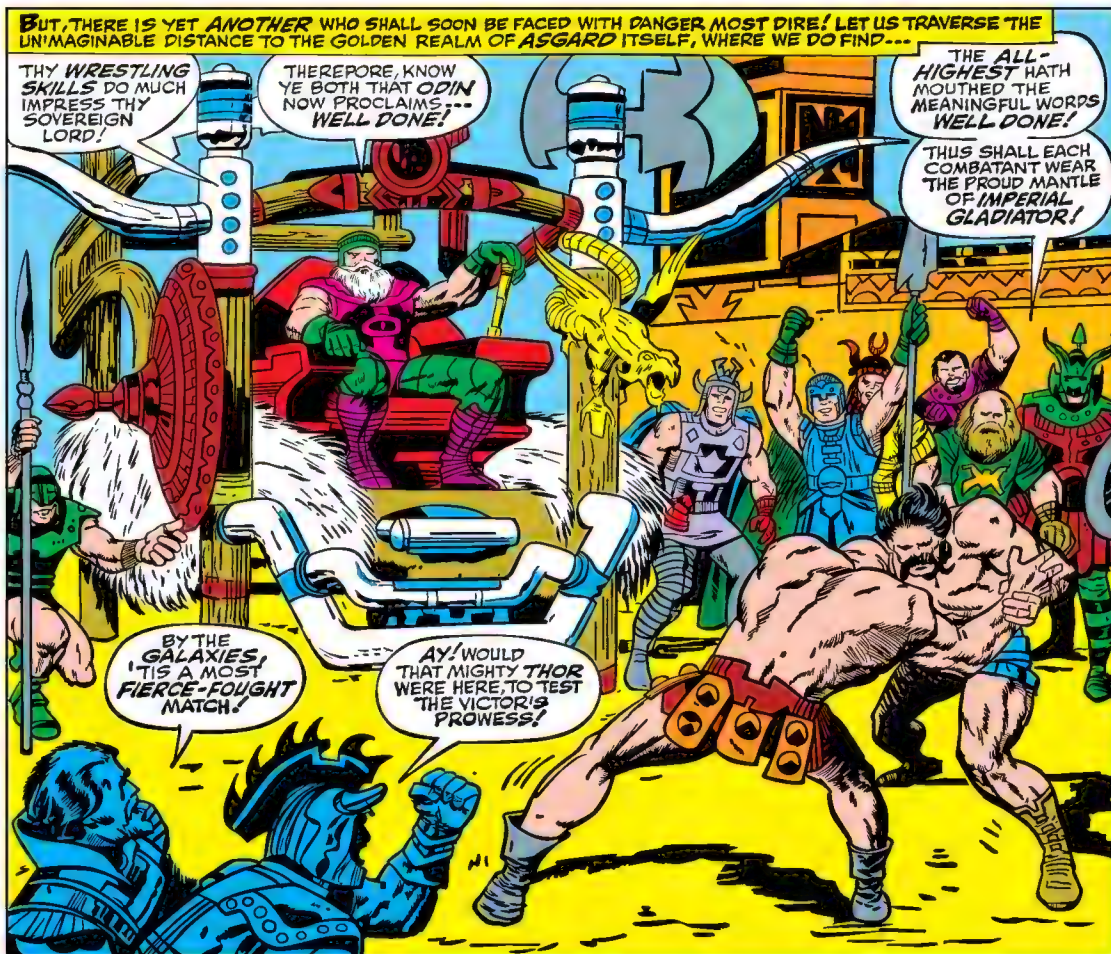
CONCEIVED IN GRANDEUR
AND PRODUCED IN
MAJESTY, BY:
STAN JACK
(THE MAN) AND (KING)
LEE AND KIRBY

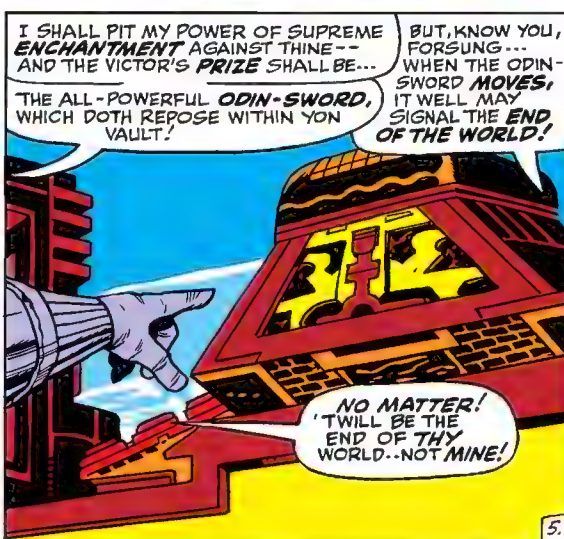
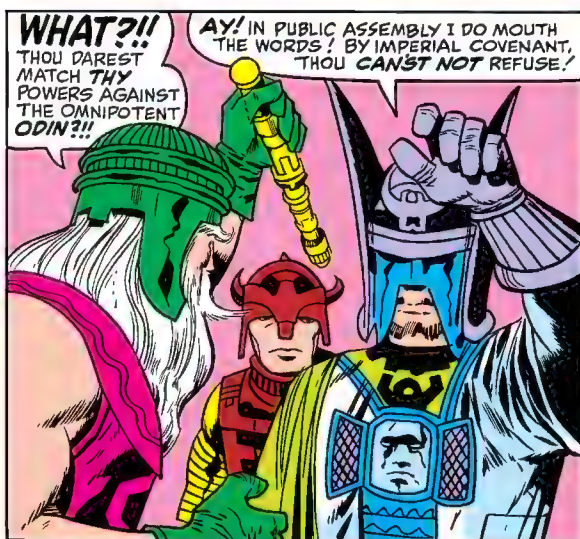
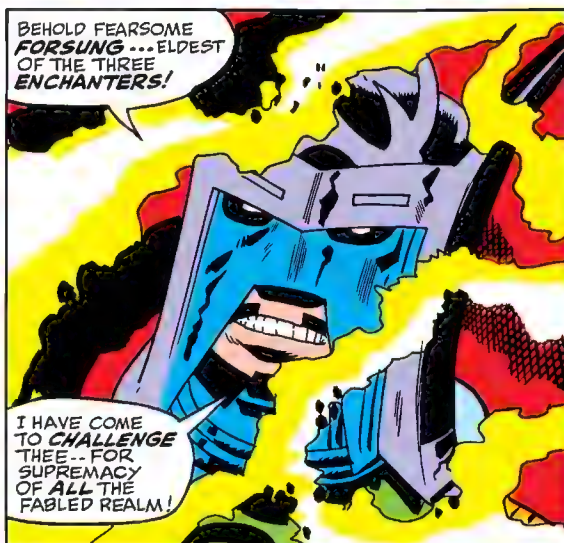
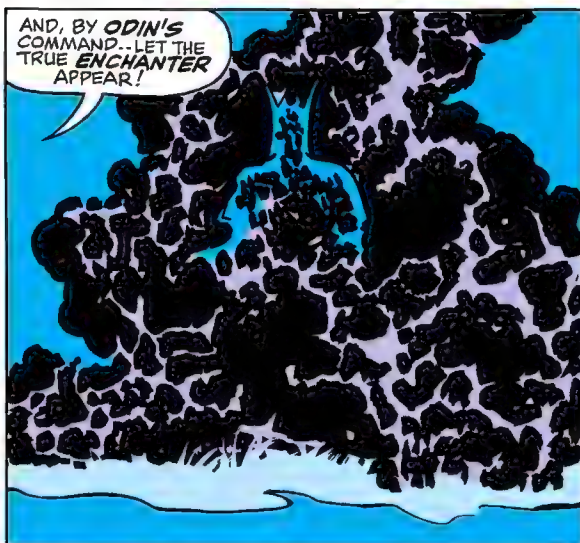
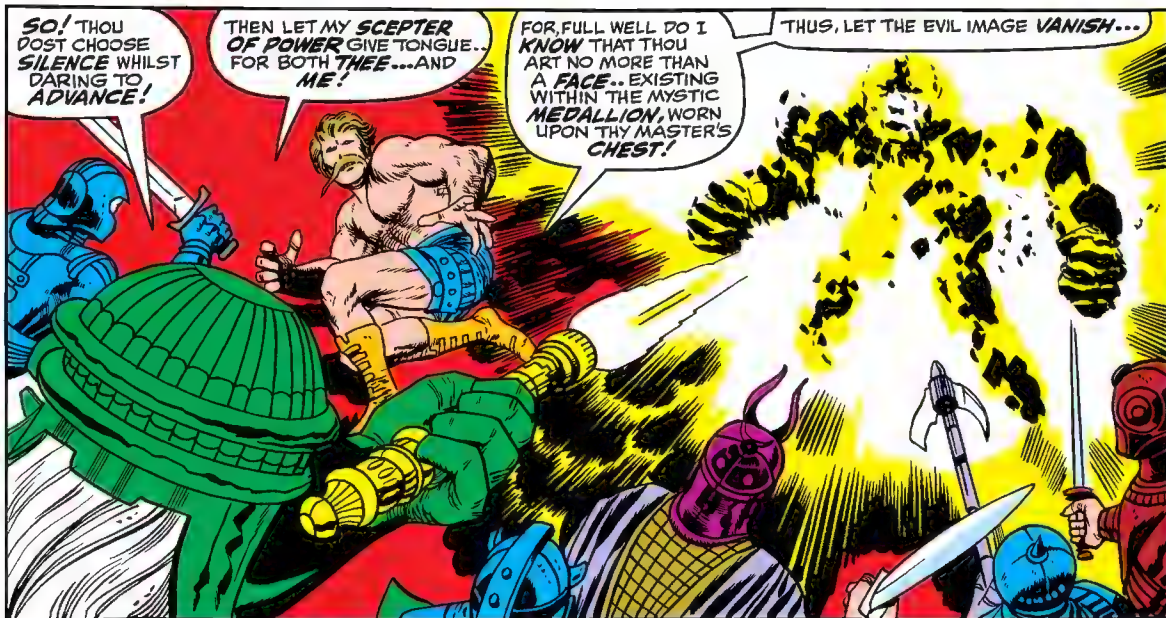
EMBELLISHED BY:
VINCENT COLLETTA
LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN

AND NOW, LET THE TRUE
ENCHANTMENT DAZZLE
THINE EYES AND STUN
THY VERY SENSES...!









NOW LET'S SEE... IS THERE ANYONE WE'VE **FORGOTTEN?** NO...IT LOOKS AS THOUGH OUR WHOLE CAST OF CHARACTERS IS REALLY IN THE SOUP! SO, WHAT SAY WE RETURN TO **THOR** FOR ANOTHER ROUND OF FAR-OUT FUN AND GAMES...

FOR ASGAAARD AND THE REALM ETERNAL!



BEHOLD HOW **EASILY** I CAUSE A PORTION OF THE GROUND **BENEATH** YOU TO **RISE** INTO THE AIR...

THUS **SEPARATING** YOU FROM THE TWO WHO NOW FALL **HELPLESSLY** AWAY!



'TIS JUST AS **WELL!** THAT WHICH MUST BE DONE, SHALL NOW BE CONSUMMATED BY THE MIGHT OF **THOR**, ALONE!

STILL THY VOICE, FAIR SIF! THE SON OF ODIN WILL GIVE THEE NO **EAR!**

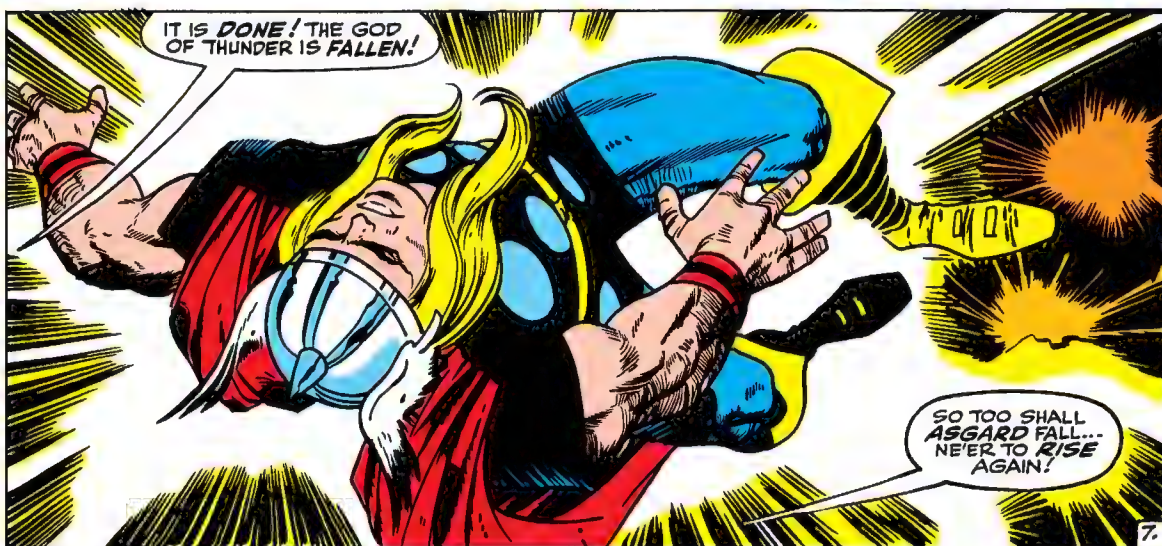
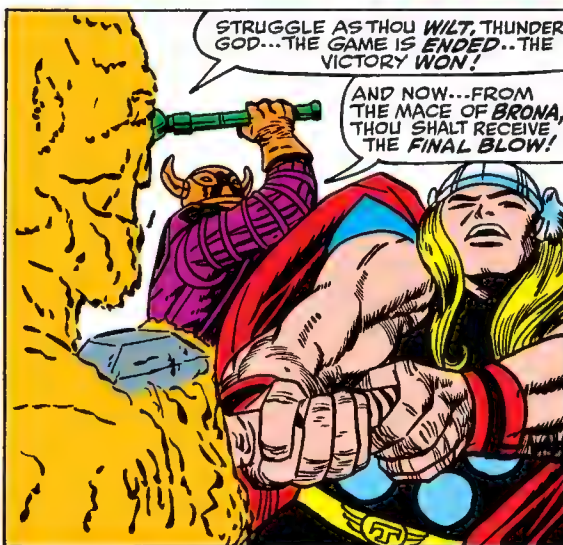
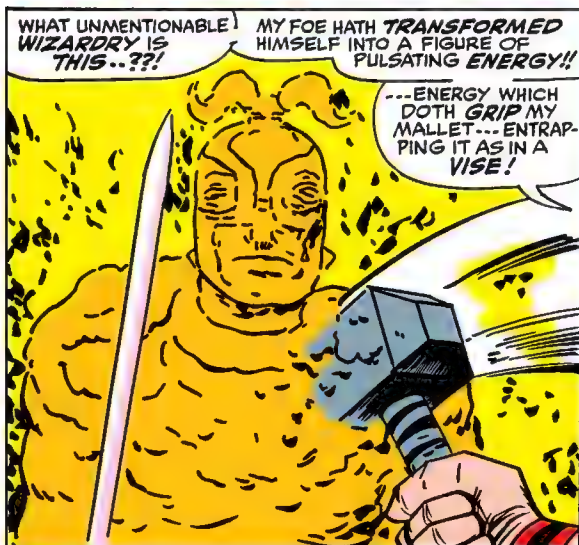
NOW, WHILST WE RISE ABOVE THE TOPMOST SPIRE OF YON MORTAL LAND, THOU SHALT MEET THY **FATE!**

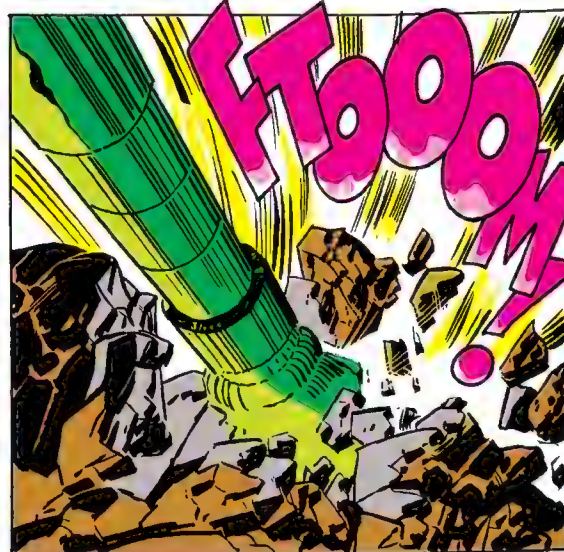
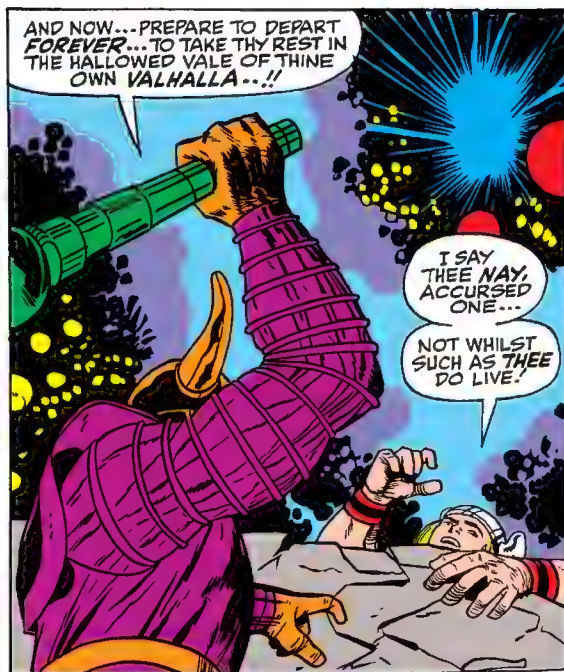
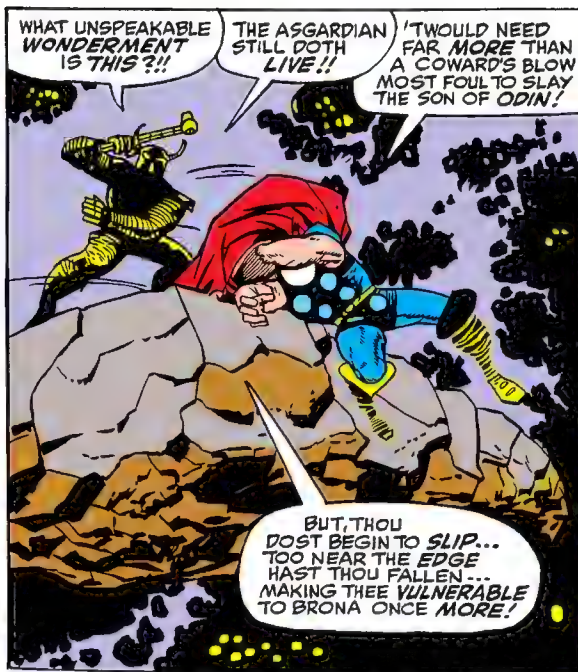
ERE THIS GRIM CHARADE SHALL DRAW TO A CLOSE, IN ALL THE UNIVERSE THERE SHALL BE **THUNDER GOD NO MORE!**

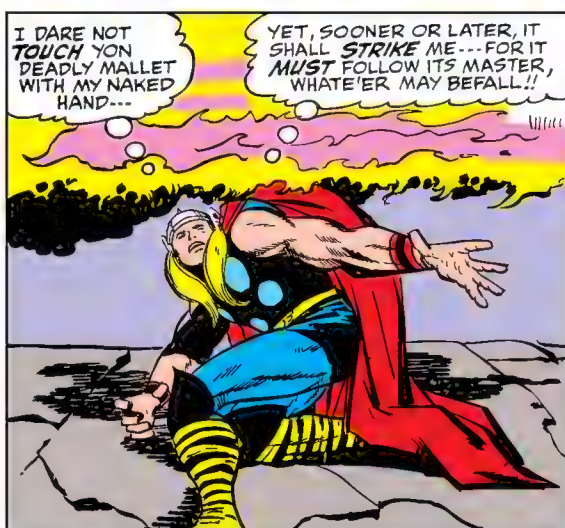
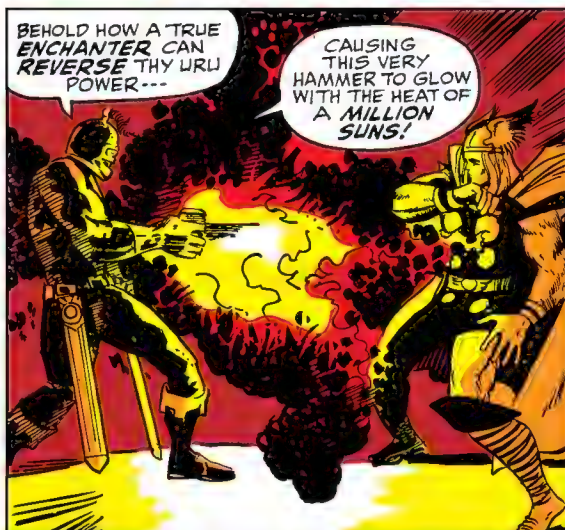
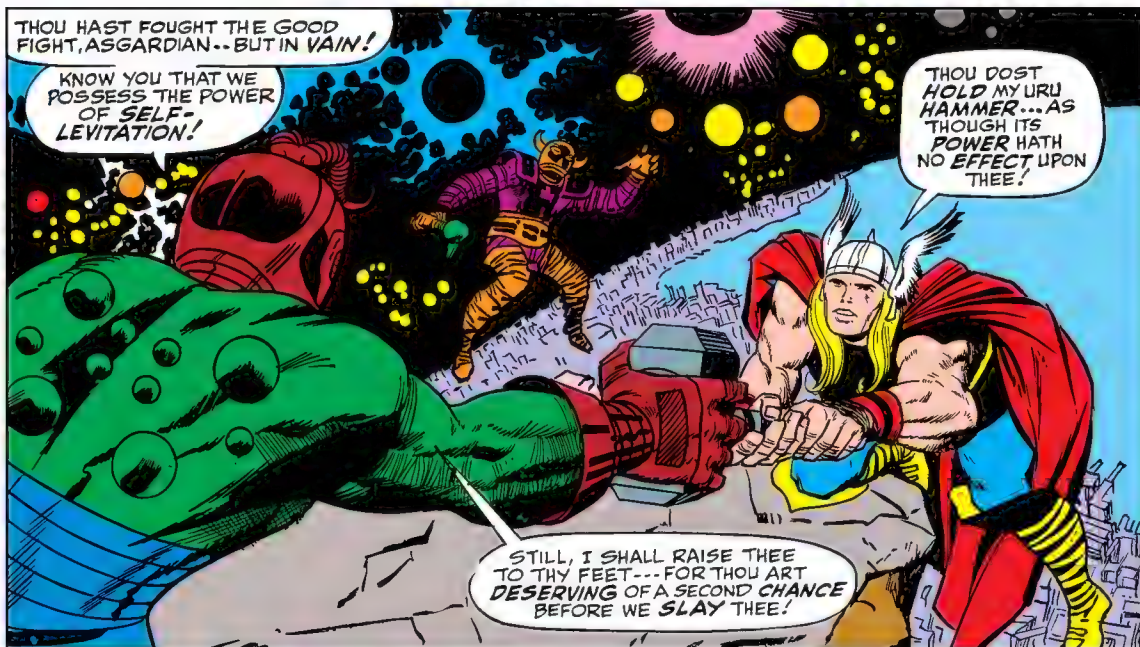
THOR HATH LITTLE PATIENCE FOR EMPTY WORDS!

HAVE AT THEE, BOTH!









HE HATH LEAPED 'NEATH
THE FLASHING SWORD OF
MAGNIR...HURLING MY
BROTHER UPON HIS BACK,
WITH ONE FELL SWOOP!

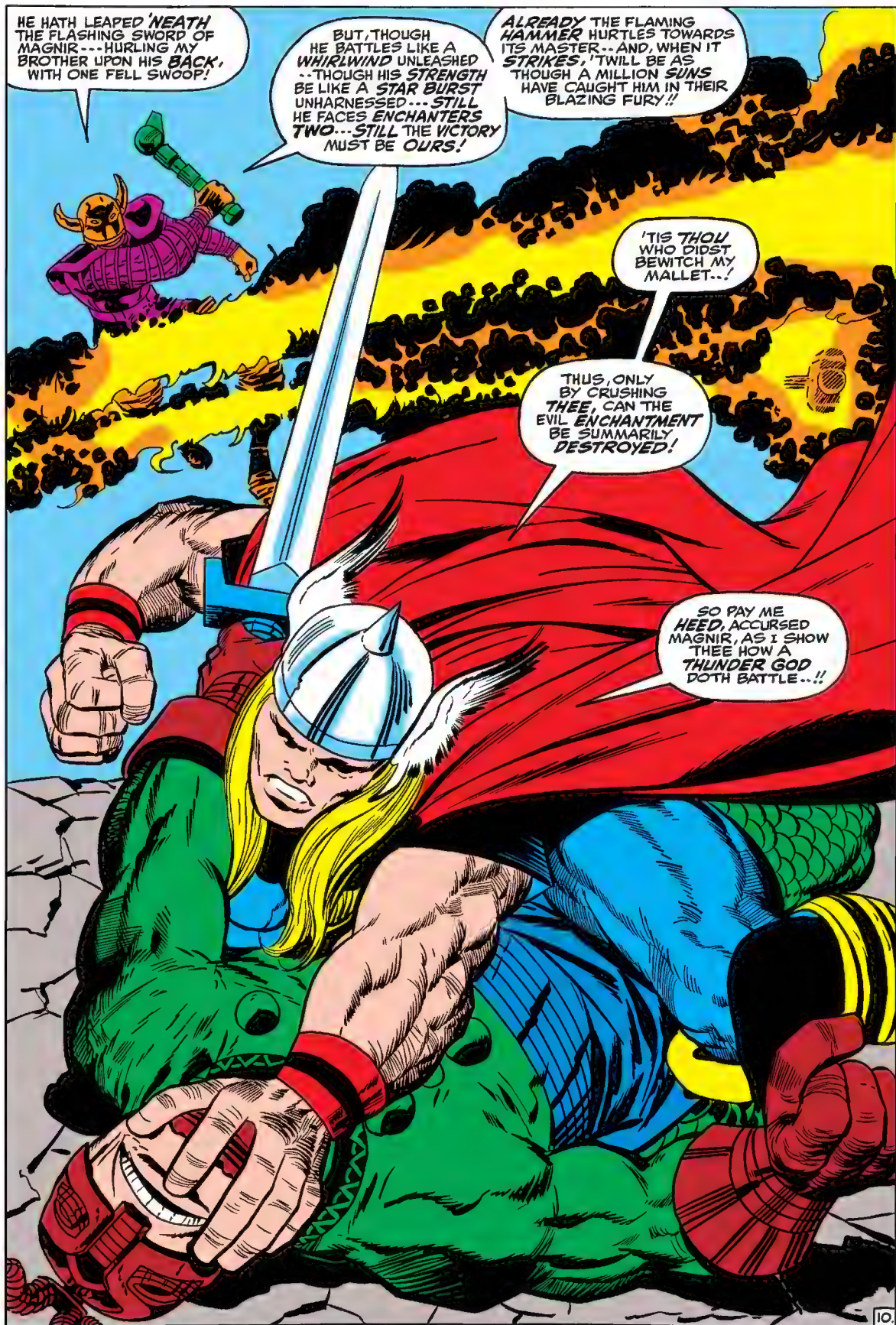
BUT, THOUGH
HE BATTLES LIKE A
WHIRLWIND UNLEASHED
--THOUGH HIS STRENGTH
BE LIKE A STAR BURST
UNHARNESSED... STILL
HE FACES ENCHANTERS
TWO...STILL THE VICTORY
MUST BE OURS!

ALREADY THE FLAMING
HAMMER HURTLES TOWARDS
ITS MASTER...AND, WHEN IT
STRIKES, 'T WILL BE AS
THOUGH A MILLION SUNS
HAVE CAUGHT HIM IN THEIR
BLAZING FURY!!

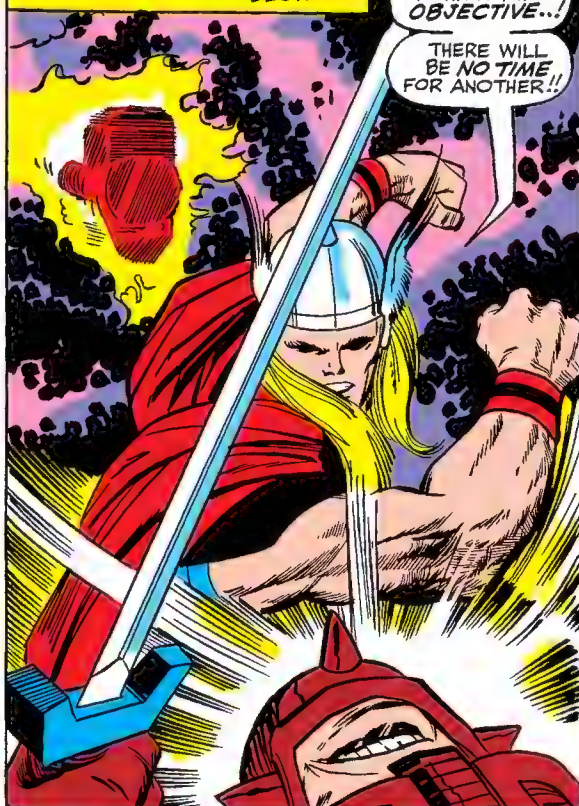
'TIS THOU
WHO DIDST
BEWITCH MY
MALLET...!

THUS, ONLY
BY CRUSHING
THEE, CAN THE
EVIL ENCHANTMENT
BE SUMMARILY
DESTROYED!

SO PAY ME
HEED, ACCURSED
MAGNIR, AS I SHOW
THEE HOW A
THUNDER GOD
DOTH BATTLE...!!



THEN, IN THE SPACE OF A FEW MICRO-SECONDS BEFORE THE ZOOMING HAMMER CAN STRIKE, THE MIGHTY THOR UNLEASHES A SENSES-STAGGERING BLOW...



THIS BLOW ALONE MUST ACHIEVE MY OBJECTIVE...!

THERE WILL BE NO TIME FOR ANOTHER!!

'TIS DONE...AND DONE WELL!

WITH CONSCIOUSNESS GONE FROM THE BODY OF MAGNIR..



NO LONGER MAY HE CONTROL THE FLAMING ENCHANTMENT OF MY MALLET.

THUS, THE HAND OF THOR AGAIN MAY GRASP IT...AS IS MY BIRTHRIGHT ETERNAL!

AND, WITH HAMMER IN HAND, ONCE MORE DO I PLUNGE INTO BATTLE...

...AGAIN TO CHALLENGE THE BLUDGEONING MACE OF HIM WHO IS KNOWN AS BRONA!!

BUT, STILL YOU FORGET, GOD OF THUNDER...



THE UNPLUMBED POWERS OF ENCHANTMENT ARE EVER MINE TO COMMAND..

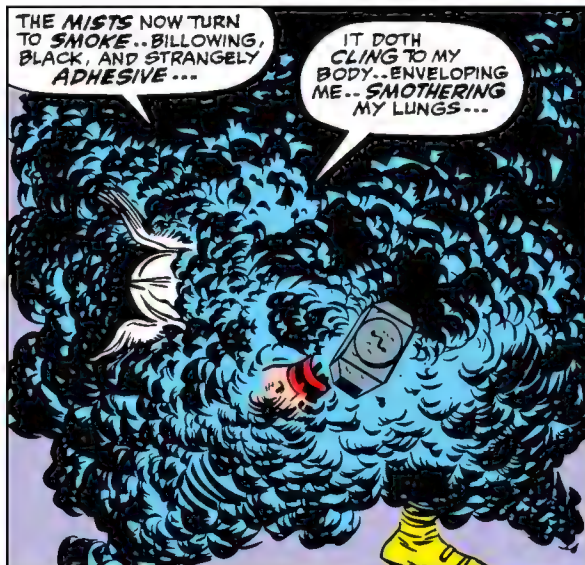
POWERS AGAINST WHICH EVEN THOU CANST MUSTER NO DEFENSE..!

DEFENSE?!! WHAT NEEDS MIGHTY THOR WITH MERE DEFENSE?!!

I DO BUT STRIKE FOR...HOLD!! WHAT SORCERY BE THIS?

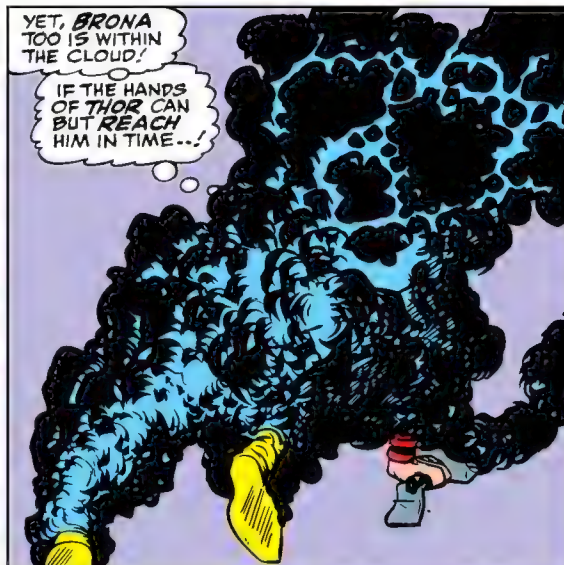


WHERE ONCE HAD STOOD EVIL BRONA..NOW WAFTS A MISTY PHANTOM!!



THE MISTS NOW TURN TO **SMOKE**..BILLOWING, BLACK, AND STRANGELY ADHESIVE...

IT DOETH CLING TO MY BODY...ENVELOPING ME...**SMOTHERING** MY LUNGS...



YET, **BRONA** TOO IS WITHIN THE CLOUD!

IF THE HANDS OF **THOR** CAN BUT REACH HIM IN TIME...

AND, EVEN AS THE SON OF ODIN DESPERATELY LASHES OUT...HIS REGAL FATHER PREPARES FOR BLUDGEONING BATTLE AS WELL...



GRASP THOU THE **SCEPTRE OF POWER**, ENCHANTER!

UPON **THAT** SIDE THY HAND...UPON **THIS** SIDE MINE!

THROUGH YON **SCEPTRE**, OUR POWER WILL **FLOW**.. SMASHING AT THE **BOTH** OF US..

--TILL ONLY **ONE** HAND DOETH REMAIN... THE **STRONG-EST** ONE OF ALL!

AND **THAT** SHALL BE THE HAND OF **FORSLING**!

NOW, LORD OF **ASGARD**..IN THY **FINAL** MOMENTS.. REMOVE THE **POWERS** OF THY SUBJECTS, AND I SHALL DISCLAIM THE USE OF MY **MYSTIC TALIS-MAN**!

BEWARE A **TRICK**, SIRE!

HEED NOT THE WORDS OF **FORSLING**!

I KNOW **NOT** OF TRICKS!

I DO BUT SEEK TO ENGAGE IN **EQUAL** COMBAT!

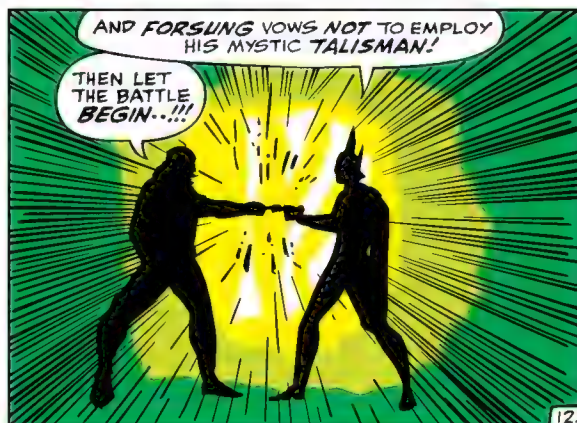


BE SILENT ALL! ODIN HATH NO FEAR!

THE POWER OF ALL **ASGARDIANS** BE NOW **WITHDRAWN**!

NAUGHT BUT **MINE** DOETH REMAIN!

SO BE IT!



AND **FORSLING** VOWS NOT TO EMPLOY HIS **MYSTIC TALISMAN**!

THEN LET THE **BATTLE** BEGIN...!!!

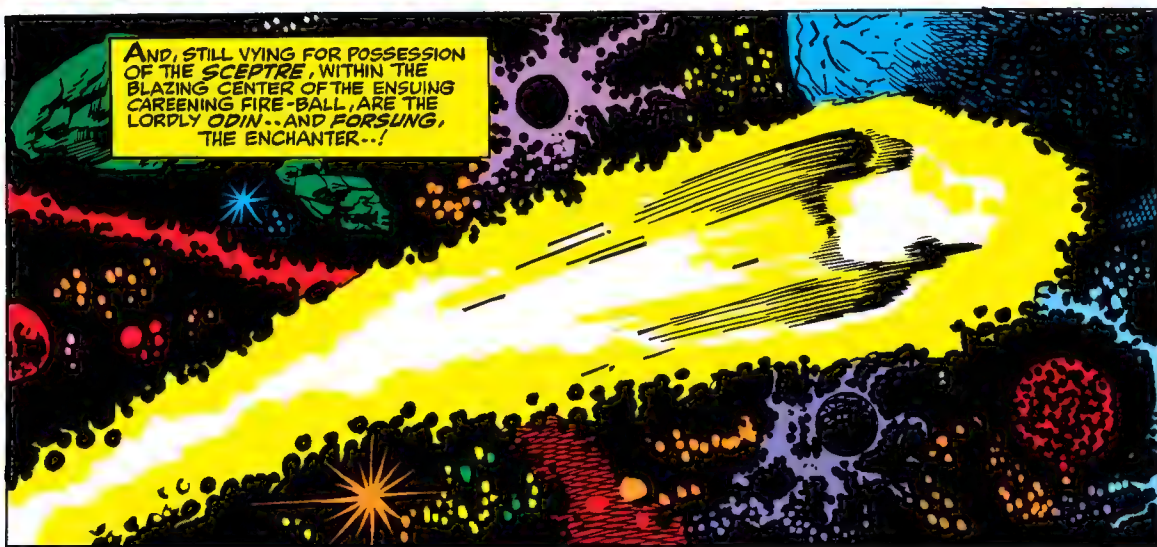
WITHIN *SECONDS*, THE POWER OF THE *SCEPTRE* SEEMS TO SHAKE THE VERY *UNIVERSE* WITH ITS EVER-EXPANDING ENERGY...



THE AWESOME *FORCES*, SO CATAclysmically RELEASED, INSTANTLY MERGE INTO A BLINDING BURST OF ALL-CONSUMING *FLAME*, AS EVERY EYE IS *AVERTED* BEFORE THE INDESCRIBABLE SPECTACLE...



AND, STILL VYING FOR POSSESSION OF THE *SCEPTRE*, WITHIN THE BLAZING CENTER OF THE ENSUING CAREENING FIRE-BALL, ARE THE LORDLY *ODIN*...AND *FORSUNG*, THE ENCHANTER...



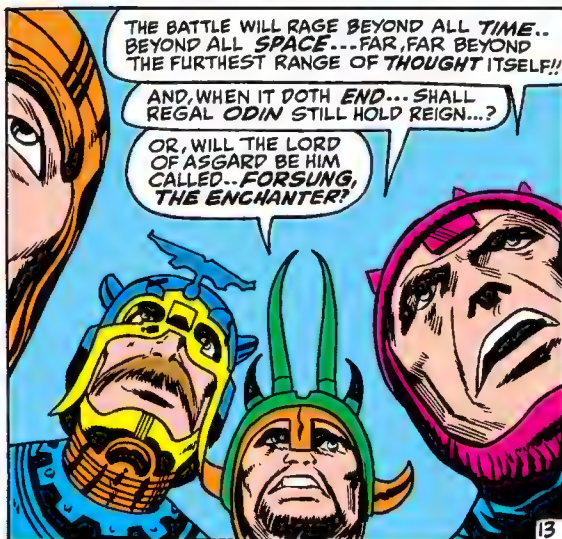
SO OVERPOWERING...SO UNCONTROLLABLE...IS THIS VIOLENT UPHEAVAL OF LIMITLESS ENERGY, THAT IT SHATTERS DEAD *PLANETS* AS IF THEY ARE ANT HILLS...AS THE HEAT OF ITS PASSING LEAVES NEW BURNING *SUNS* IN ITS GALAXY-WIDE WAKE...



THE BATTLE WILL RAGE BEYOND ALL *TIME*... BEYOND ALL *SPACE*...FAR, FAR BEYOND THE FURTHEST RANGE OF *THOUGHT* ITSELF!!

AND, WHEN IT DOETH *END*...SHALL REGAL *ODIN* STILL HOLD REIGN...?

OR, WILL THE LORD OF ASGARD BE HIM CALLED...*FORSUNG*, THE ENCHANTER?



BUT, OTHER EYES OBSERVE THE SKY AS WELL... AMONG THEM, THE CLEAR BUT TROUBLED EYES OF BALDER, AND THE STUNNING SIF...

QUICKLY, MY LADY! THOU MUST USE THY POWER OF INSTANT TRANSPORT TO BRING US TO THE SIDE OF THOR!

ALAS, LOYAL BALDER... I'M MAY NOT SO DO!

WHAT? THOU WOULDST NOT AID HIM WHOM THOU DOTH PROFESS TO LOVE?!!



I WOULD, BRAVE WARRIOR... AS ODIN IS MY JUDGE, I WOULD...

BUT, MY POWER HATH MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED!! IN TRUTH, MOST FAITHFUL FRIEND... I CANNOT!!

CAN THIS THEN BE THE SINISTER DOING OF... THE ENCHANTERS?!!



BUT, IF WE CANNOT REACH HIM... HOW SHALL THE THUNDER GOD FARE AGAINST THEIR POWERS OF DEADLY SORCERY?!!

FEAR NOT, MY LADY! RIGHT MUST EVER PREVAIL!

HER SLENDER ARMS ABOUT ME... THEY AWAKEN A FEELING I DARE NOT POSSESS...

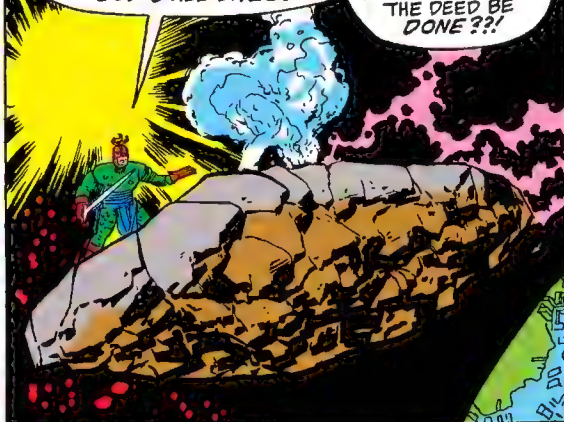
...FOR SHE IS THE BELOVED OF HIM WHO IS MORE THAN BROTHER TO ME!



WHILE, FAR ABOVE THE TOWERING SPIRES OF MANHATTAN...

THE MYSTIC MIST BEGINS TO FADE... BUT, THE THUNDER GOD STILL LIVES!

WHY HATH BRONA THUS ABANDONED HIS ATTACK... BEFORE THE DEED BE DONE?!!



THE FIGURE OF BRONA DOTH RETURN TO NORMAL... EVEN AS THIS SECTION OF PAVEMENT DESCENDS TOWARDS EARTH ONCE MORE!

AND, STRANGELY ENOW... I DO FEEL BEREFT OF MINE OWN GODLY POWERS AS WELL!

'TIS AS THOUGH THY POWERS HAVE LEFT THEE BOTH!



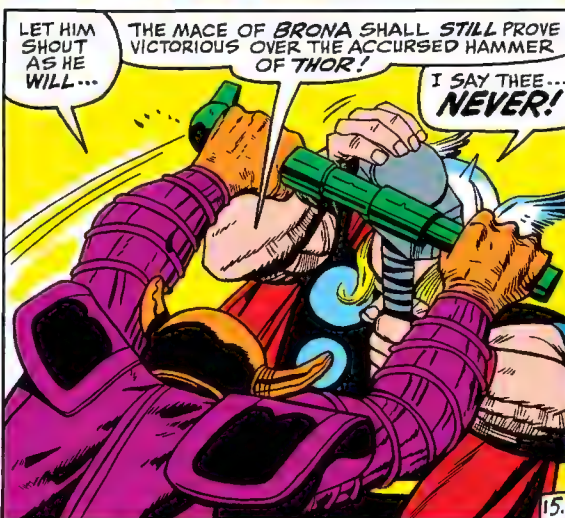
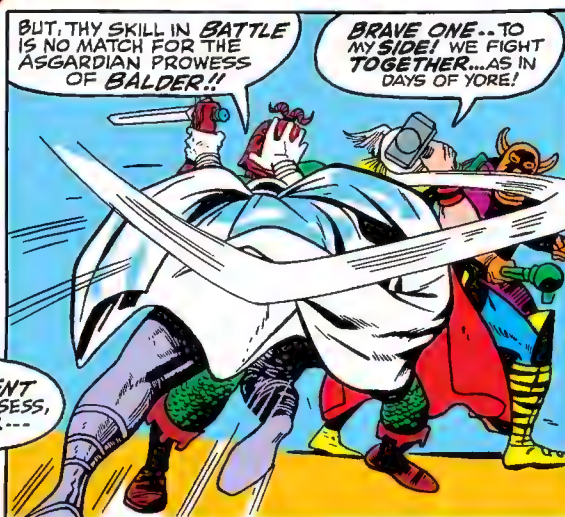
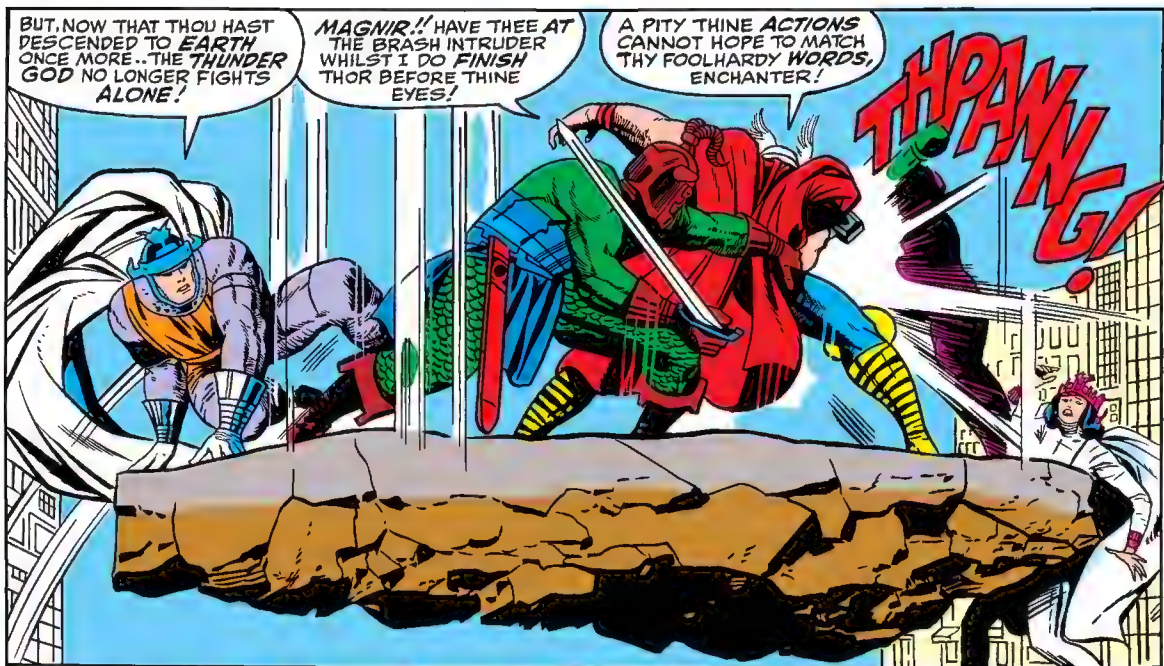
THEN THERE CAN BUT ONE ANSWER BE...

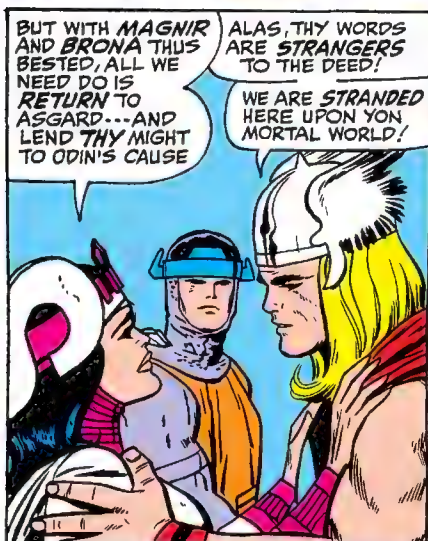
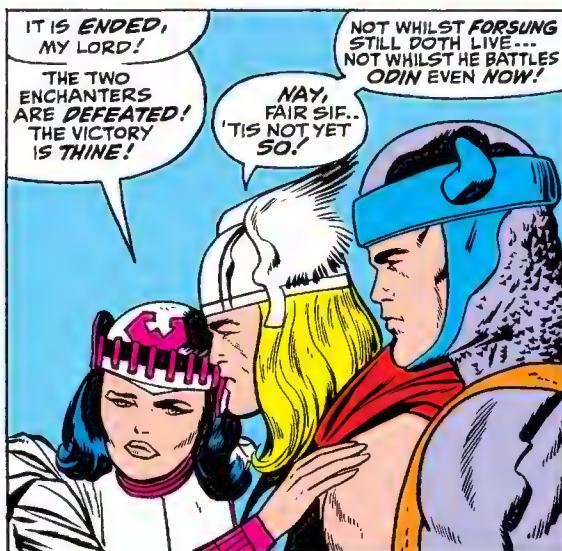
ODIN AND FORSUNG ARE FIGHTING THE ULTIMATE BATTLE... AND BOTH HAVE RENOUNCED THEIR POWERS UNTIL THE END IS COME!

BUT, IF WE HAVE EACH LOST OUR POWERS... THEN STILL WE BE EQUAL IN STRENGTH!!



STILL I MAY STRIKE FOR, ASGARD...!





TALES OF **ASGARD**, HOME OF THE MIGHTY NORSE GODS™

"The BEGINNING of THE END!"

CONJURED INTO BEING BY MYSTIC MOGUL, SATAN'S DREADED DEMON RIDERS ATTACK MIGHTY THOR AND HIS TWO GALLANT COMPANIONS WITH A SAVAGERY UNMATCHED ANYWHERE IN THE ENDLESS UNIVERSE...!

BY SHEER
WEIGHT OF NUMBERS
THEY DO SEEK TO
OVERWHELM US!

BACK,
THOU SCOURGE
OF HADES!

THOUGH THY
NUMBER BE *ENDLESS*..
'TIS ASGARDIANS
WHO STAND BEFORE
THEE!

NOT E'EN MY
ENCHANTED Mallet
HATH ROOM ENOW
TO SWING WITH FORCE
SUPREME!

BY THE FLAMING FURY OF FORBUSH, HERE
BE *GRANDEUR*, FREELY GIVEN...AS
CONCEIVED AND CREATED BY:

STAN **JACK**
(THE MAN) and (KING)
LEE **KIRBY**

EMBELLISHED BY: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERED BY: SAM ROSEN

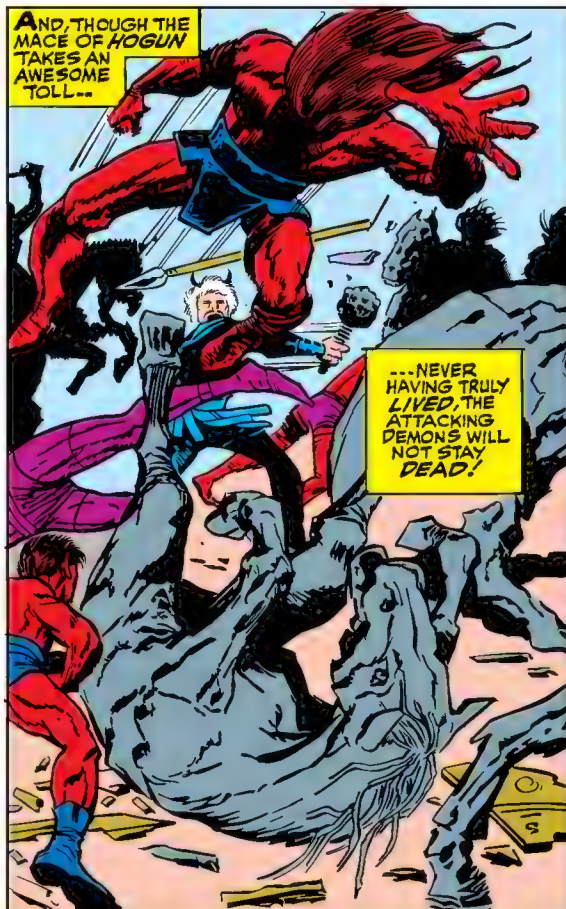
THREE
AGAINST
FORTY...

...AND STILL
SHALL THE TRIUMPH
BE OURS!

BUT, THOUGH THEIR COURAGE IS UNWAVERING, THE VALIANT ASGARDEANS FIND THEMSELVES BATTLING SEEMINGLY HOPELESS ODDS! EVEN THE FLASHING BLADE OF FANDRAL IS UNABLE TO STEM THE DEMONIAIC TIDE ...!

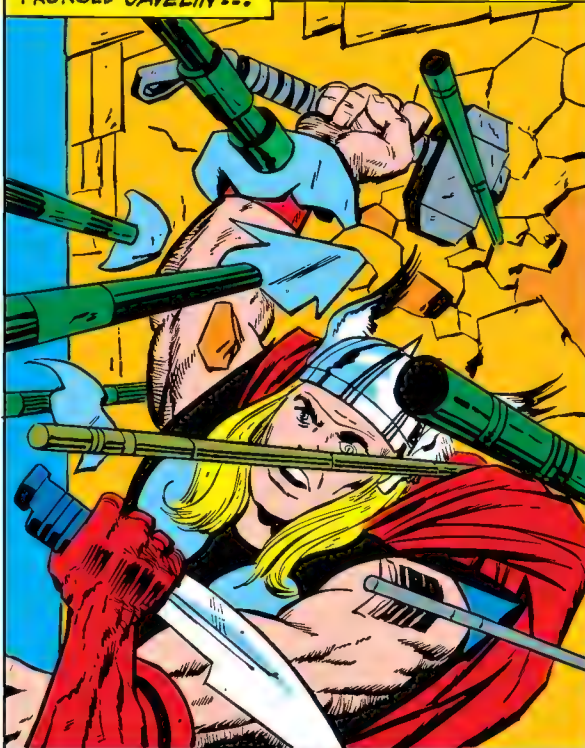


AND, THOUGH THE MACE OF HOGUN TAKES AN AWESOME TOLL--



...NEVER HAVING TRULY LIVED, THE ATTACKING DEMONS WILL NOT STAY DEAD!

EVEN THE GOD OF THUNDER FINDS HIS HAMMER ARM SUDDENLY PINIONED BY AN IRON-SHAFTED, TWIN-PRONGED JAVELIN ...!



...UNTIL THE ARM OF ANOTHER SUDDENLY LASHES OUT---FREEING THE STARTLED SON OF ODIN---



BY THE MATCHLESS MIGHT OF MJOLNIR!
A NEW ALLY STANDS WITH THOR!



HOW ART THOU CALLED, EMBATTLED ONE?

I AM **ALIBAR**,
THE VAGABOND!

FOR DARING TO DEFEY
THE RULE OF **MOGUL**,
HE DID PLACE ME AT
THE HEAD OF THE
DEMON RIDERS..

BUT, LEAD THEM
I DID NOT!! INSTEAD,
I WAS BY THEM
PURSUED.. FOR
THEY SLAY ANYONE
WHO LIVES!

SUCH
IS THE
NATURE OF
MOGUL'S
FIENDISH JEST!



BUT, IF **PERISH** I MUST...
THEN LET IT BE AT THE
SIDE OF SUCH AS
THEE, **ASGARDIAN**!

SPEAK NOT OF
DEFEAT, COURAGEOUS
ONE!!

DO WE NOT STILL LIVE?
YEA, WHILST ONE LAST
BREATH REMAINS,
LET US STRIKE FOR
VICTORY!!

AH, IF THE
VOLUMINOUS
VOLSTAGG
COULD BUT BE WITH
US, IN THIS... OUR
TIME OF TRIAL!



THEN, SCANT MOMENTS LATER...

WE HAVE
PUT THEM
TO ROUT!

THEY FALL
BACK... TO
MUSTER THEIR
STRENGTH...
REGROUPING
FOR A
SECOND
CHARGE!

NEVER BEFORE
HAVE SATAN'S
HORSEMEN
FAILED THE
FIRST ATTACK!

BUT, NEVER HAVE
THEY FACED THE
LIKE OF US!

IT MATTERS NOT HOW
OFT THEY COME ...

FOR THEY CAN
NEVER DIE!

BUT, WHAT OF
US? SOON,
OUR LIMBS
WILL WEARY...

BUT OUR
HEARTS
SHALL
KNOW NO FEAR!

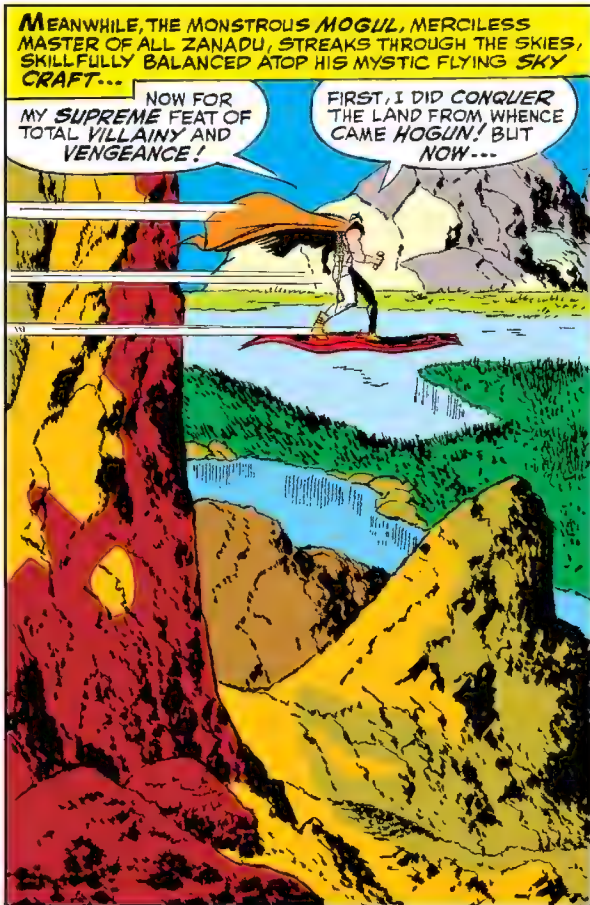


AY!! THOUGH THEIR
ATTACK DOETH LAST
TILL HALLOWED
ASGARD IS NAUGHT
BUT FADED MEMORY...

STILL SHALL WE STAND!
STILL SHALL WE FIGHT!
AND STILL SHALL WE
PREVAIL!

THE VERY
SOUL OF **HOGUN**
CAN NE'ER BE AT
PEACE TILL **MOGUL**
HATH BEEN CRUSHED!!

**SO SAY
WE ALL!**



AND, FROM FORTY FEARSOME THROATS, THE ANSWERING CRY RINGS OUT---



BUT, BEFORE THE TWO OPPOSING FORCES CAN CLASH, A BLINDING BEAM OF SENSES-STAGGERING FORCE STRIKES THE HORRENDOUS HORDE... CAUSING IT TO VANISH FROM SIGHT... SENDING THE DEMONS BACK TO THE NAMELESS NOWHERE FROM WHENCE THEY CAME!!



THEN, WHEN THE SMOKE HAS FINALLY CLEARED---



DIDST THOU THINK THE VALOROUS VOLSTAGG WOULD ABANDON HIS FELLOW STALWARTS ?!!

WHILST THOU WERT FROLICKING WITH YON RIDERS, VOLSTAGG DID RISK HIS PRECIOUS LIFE TO SEIZE THIS WEAPON FROM MOGUL'S ARSENAL.*

*AS WE TRULY DID SEE LAST ISH! --SOOTH-SAYER STAN.



AND NOW, INVIGORATED BY MY CUNNING... INSPIRED BY MY DARING.. THOU MAYEST JOIN THY HERO --FOR THE FINAL BATTLE!

NEXT:
The END!!



THE
MIGHTY

THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

12¢
IND.

145
OCT



"ABANDONED ON EARTH!"

THE MIGHTY THOR!

"ABANDONED ON EARTH!"

HEED THE WORDS OF THOR, EVIL ONES...

SINCE I HAVE RESISTED THEE UPON THE PLANET EARTH* 'TIS HERE THOU MUST BE PUNISHED!

*BRONA AND MAGNIR GOT THEIR LUMPS FROM THEIR LAST ISH, REMEMBER? ... SMILEY

WE ARE POWERLESS NOW!

THUS, WE MUST YIELD!

BOY! WAIT'LL THE SARGE GETS A LOAD OF THOSE COOKIES!

THEY LOOK LIKE REFUGEES FROM A MARDI GRAS ... BUT IF THOR SAYS THEY'RE DANGEROUS, KEEP 'EM COVERED!

TWO DOWN AND ONE TO GO! ALTHOUGH BRONA AND MAGNIR ARE NOW KAPUT, FIENDISH FORSUNG IS STILL BATTLING ODIN UP IN ASGARD, AND... AWW, WHY TELL YOU NOW? IT'S ALL SPELLED OUT ON THE PAGES AHEAD...

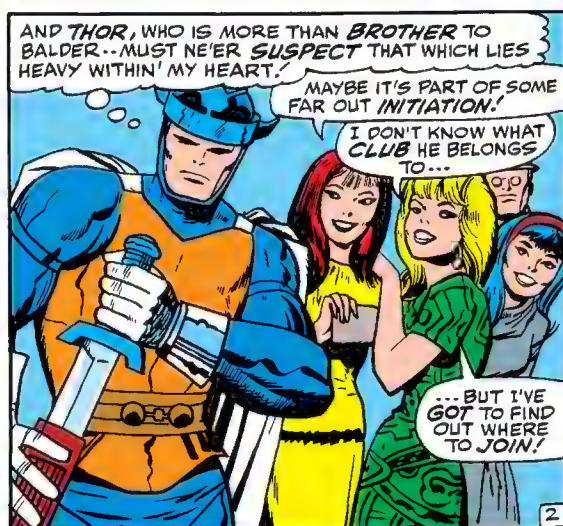
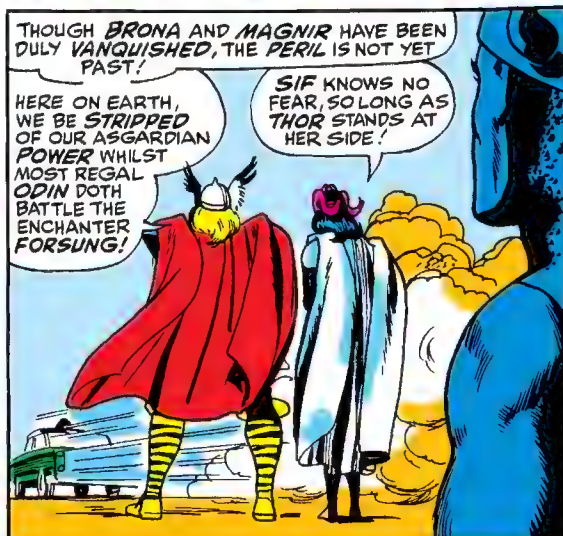
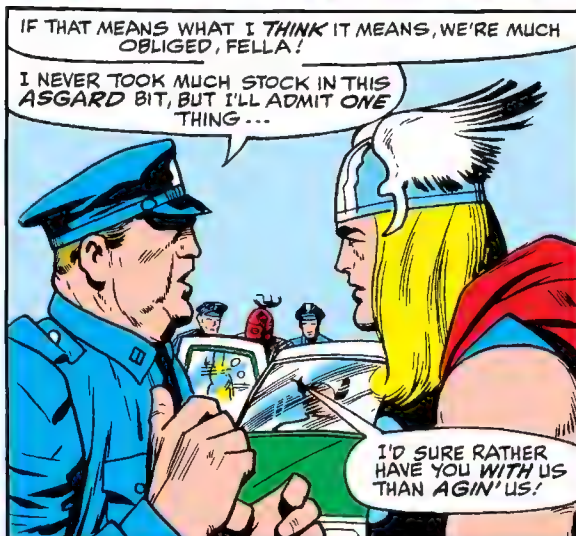
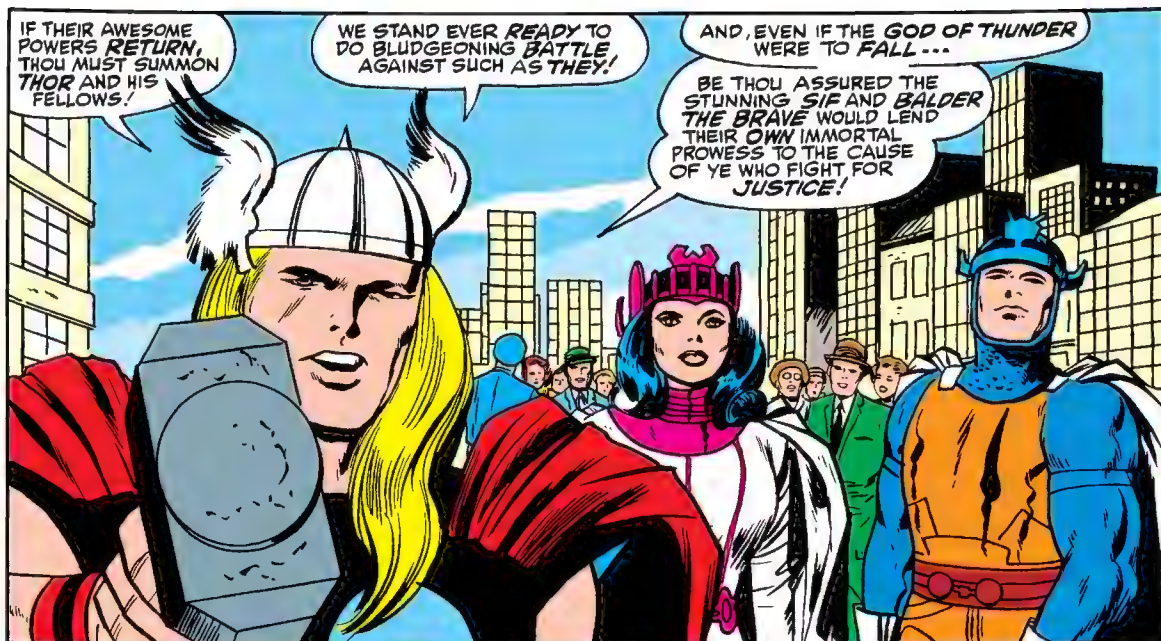
PRODUCED BY MARVEL'S
PEERLESS PURVEYORS
OF PANDEMONIOUS
PAGEANTRY:

**SMILIN'
STAN LEE**
and
**JOLLY
JACK KIRBY**

EMBELLISHED BY VALIANT
VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERED BY SWINGIN'
SAMMY ROSEN

SO BE IT!



WHILE, IN THE HALLOWED REALM OF ASGARD, TWO MIGHTY FIGURES SUDDENLY MATERIALIZE...HAVING FOUGHT THEIR BATTLE FROM ONE END OF THE UNIVERSE TO THE OTHER...

EVEN THE DREAD POWER OF ENCHANTMENT WHICH THOU DIDST POSSESS COULD NOT MATCH THE REGAL MIGHT OF OMNIPOTENT ODIN!

THUS, THE CHALLENGE IS ENDED! THOU HAST GAMBLLED THY LIFE, AND THOU HAST LOST!

BOTH FORSUNG, THE ENCHANTER... AND THAT WHICH WAS THE LIVING TALISMAN... HAVE PERISHED IN THE FRAY!

LET THE WORD ISSUE FORTH... ASGARD STILL STANDS!

SINCE TIME'S FIRST DAWNING, MANY HAVE THREATENED THE RULE IMPERIAL...

AND MANY MORE SHALL BE THERE TO COME!

BUT, EVER SHALL THEIR FATE BE AS TODAY...

DEATH TO THE FOES OF ASGARD!! I HAVE SPOKEN!

THE GOLDEN REALM SHALL E'ER ENDURE!



THEN, A VOICE ISSUES FORTH...ONE LIKE NO VOICE
EVER HEARD BY MORTAL EARS...

KNOW YE THE
JUDGEMENT
OF ODIN...



THOU ART
HENCEFORTH
BANISHED...TO
THE LOST LIMBO
OF INFINITY
UNENDING!

FIRST...THOSE
SPARKS! THEN...
THAT DEAFENING
VOICE!

AND NOW...
THEY'RE
GONE!

IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE!!
THERE'S NO
WAY OUT!

WHAT'S BOTHERIN'
ME IS...

WHAT IN BLAZES
ARE WE GONNA TELL
THE CHIEF??!



AND, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE VAST, SPRAWLING CITY...

WOULD THAT
MY FATHER'S
BATTLE WITH
FORSUNG
DOETH PROVE
SUCCESSFUL!

FOR, 'TIS MY
TRUE DESIRE
TO REMAIN
UPON EARTH!

HERE, IN THE
MORTAL OFFICE
OF DR. DON
BLAKE, THERE
IS MUCH GOOD
THAT I MAY
DO!

ASGARD DOETH HAVE MANY
IMMORTALS TO AID THE
REALM... BUT EARTH
HAS ONLY THOR!

BUT, WHAT OF THY
FATHER'S
WISHES!

SURELY
THE ALL-WISE
WILL DESIRE THY
RETURN!



NONE DO I LOVE
MORE THAN HE WHO
IS SOVEREIGN OF
US ALL!

AND YET... TOO MANY TIMES IN
THE PAST HAS THE GOD OF
THUNDER INCURRED HIS
REGAL DISPLEASURE!

I HAVE NO WISH TO E'ER
DEFY HIS IMPERIAL DECREE...
AND YET...

IS HIS BLOOD NOT
MINE? AM I LESS
A GOD THAN HE??

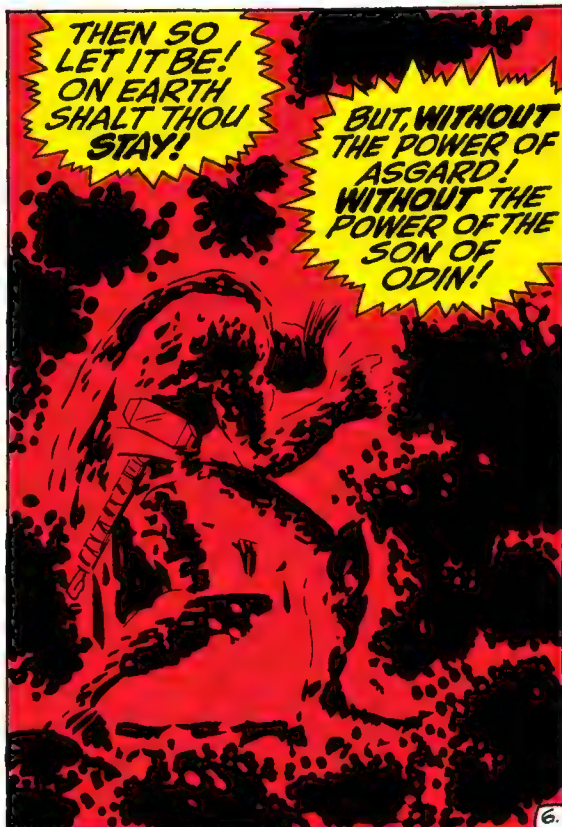
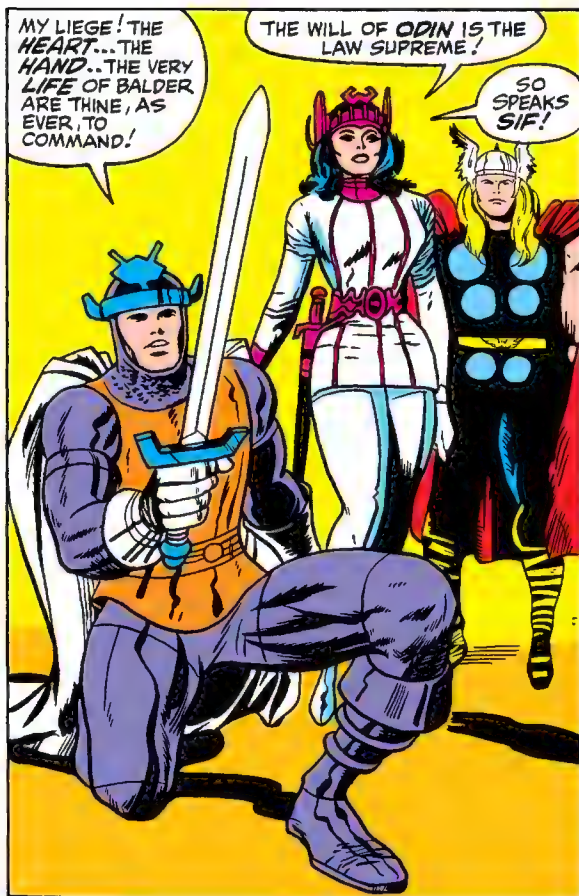


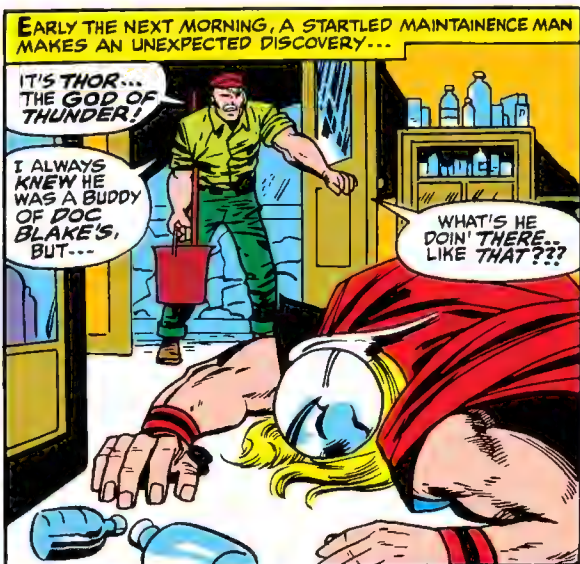
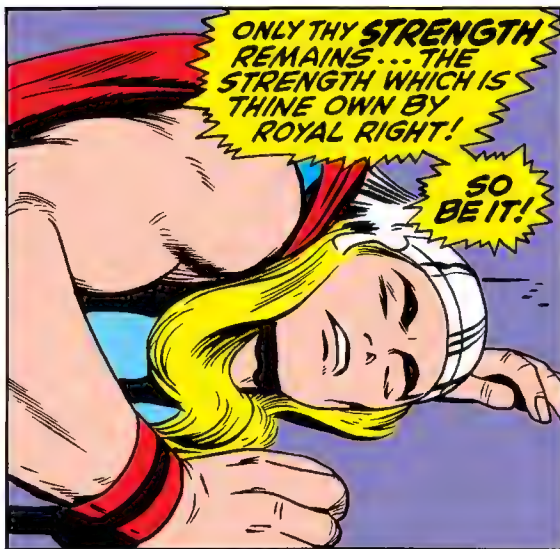
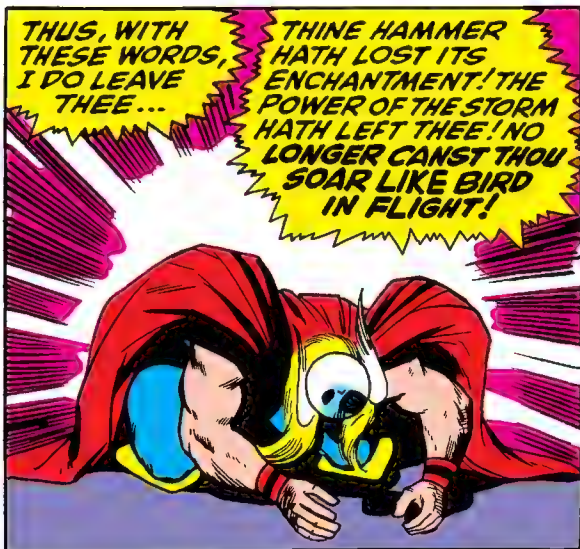
STILL THY
TONGUE,
REBELLIOUS
ONE!!

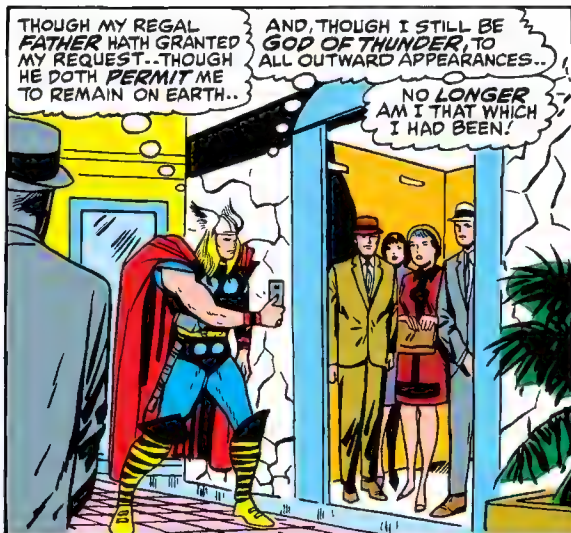
NOT A WORD IS
UTTERED THAT
DOETH NOT
REACH THE
EAR OF ODIN!

FORSUNG
HATH BEEN
VANQUISHED!
NOW MUST
ASGARD CLAIM
HER OWN!





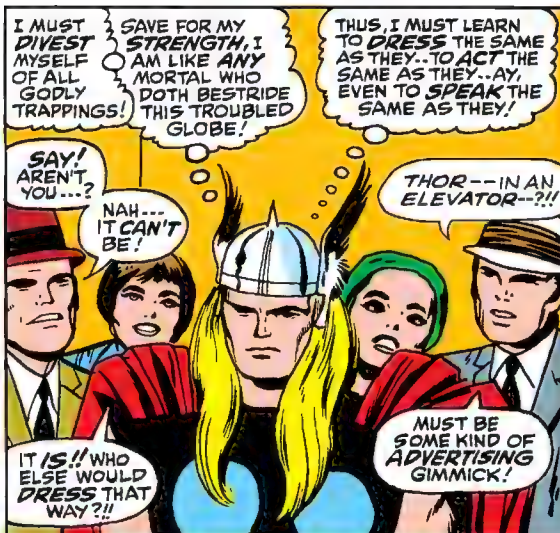




THOUGH MY REGAL FATHER HATH GRANTED MY REQUEST...THOUGH HE DOOTH PERMIT ME TO REMAIN ON EARTH...

AND,THOUGH I STILL BE GOD OF THUNDER, TO ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES...

NO LONGER AM I THAT WHICH I HAD BEEN!



I MUST DIVEST MYSELF OF ALL GODLY TRAPPINGS!

SAVE FOR MY STRENGTH, I AM LIKE ANY MORTAL WHO DOOTH BESTRIDE THIS TROUBLED GLOBE!

THUS, I MUST LEARN TO DRESS THE SAME AS THEY...TO ACT THE SAME AS THEY...AY, EVEN TO SPEAK THE SAME AS THEY!

SAY! AREN'T YOU...?

NAH... IT CAN'T BE!

THOR--IN AN ELEVATOR--?!!

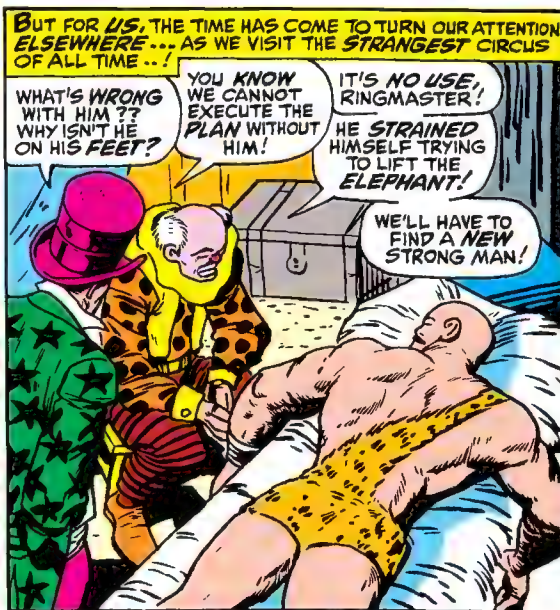
IT IS!! WHO ELSE WOULD DRESS THAT WAY?!!

MUST BE SOME KIND OF ADVERTISING GIMMICK!



THERE CAN BE NO TURNING BACK!

A NEW LIFE NOW LIES BEFORE ME... AND THOR SHALL FACE IT... WITHOUT QUALM!



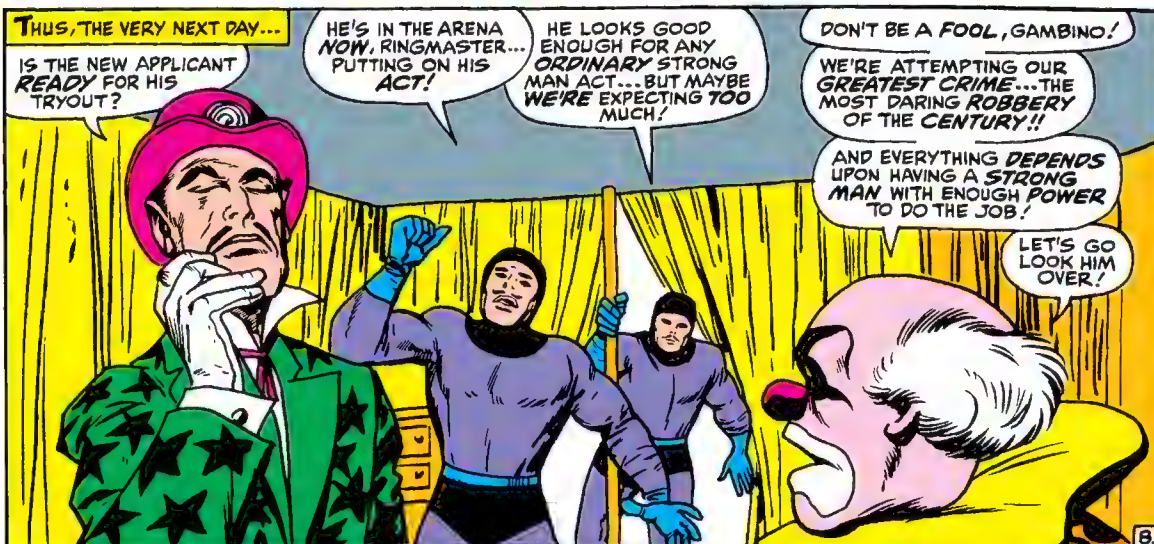
BUT FOR US, THE TIME HAS COME TO TURN OUR ATTENTION ELSEWHERE... AS WE VISIT THE STRANGEST CIRCUS OF ALL TIME...!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM ?? WHY ISN'T HE ON HIS FEET?

YOU KNOW WE CANNOT EXECUTE THE PLAN WITHOUT HIM!

IT'S NO USE, RINGMASTER! HE STRAINED HIMSELF TRYING TO LIFT THE ELEPHANT!

WE'LL HAVE TO FIND A NEW STRONG MAN!



THUS, THE VERY NEXT DAY...

IS THE NEW APPLICANT READY FOR HIS TRYOUT?

HE'S IN THE ARENA NOW, RINGMASTER... PUTTING ON HIS ACT!

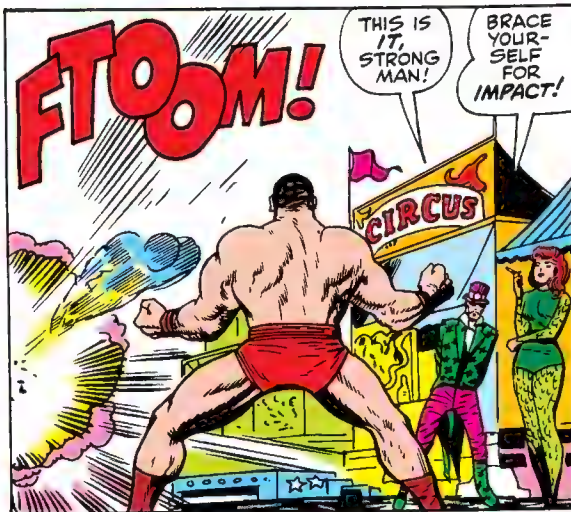
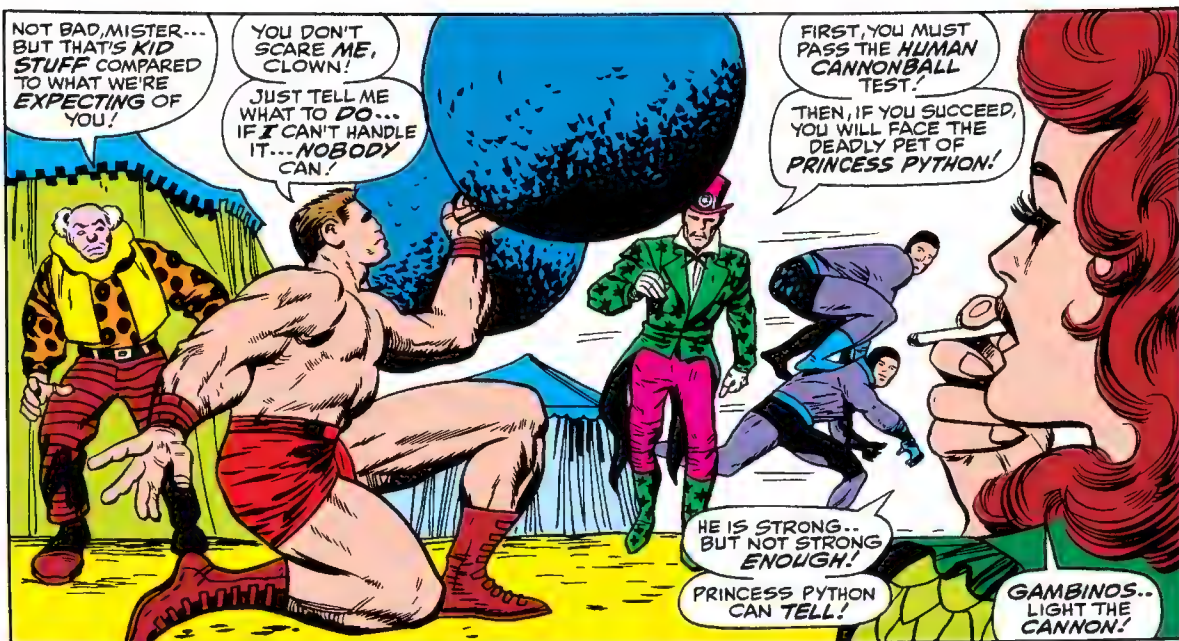
HE LOOKS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ANY ORDINARY STRONG MAN ACT...BUT MAYBE WE'RE EXPECTING TOO MUCH.

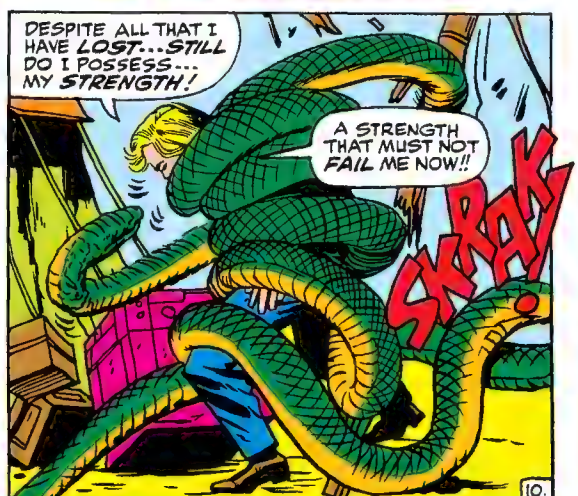
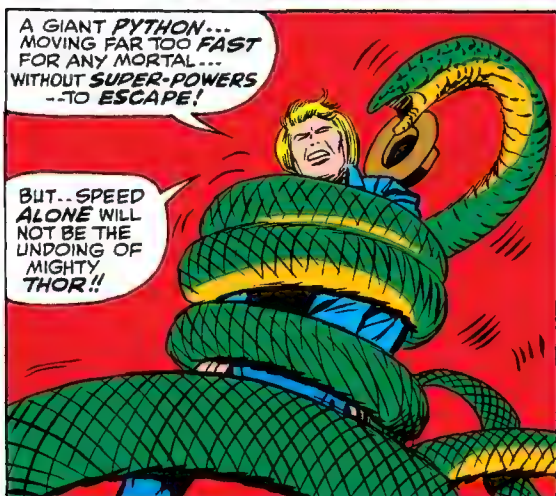
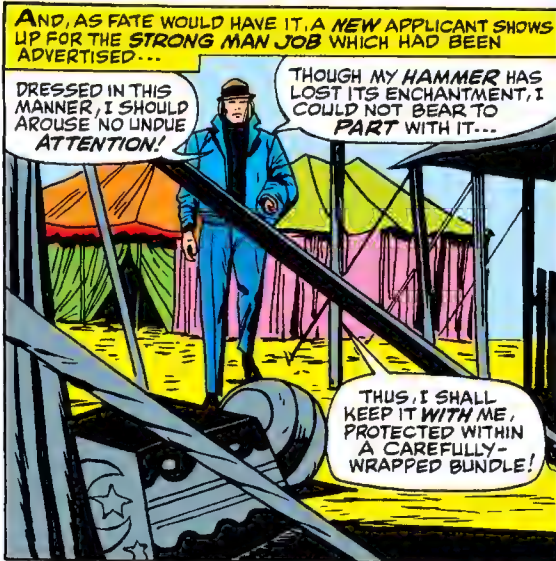
DON'T BE A FOOL, GAMBINO!

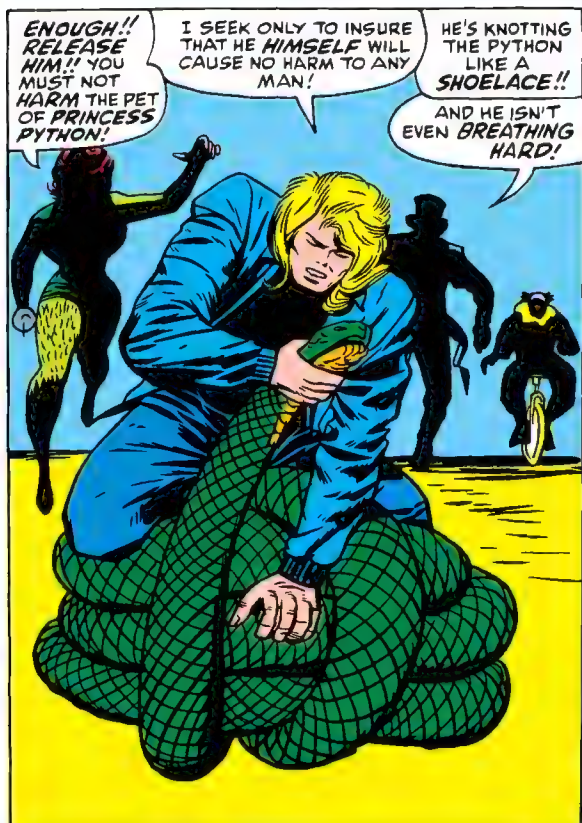
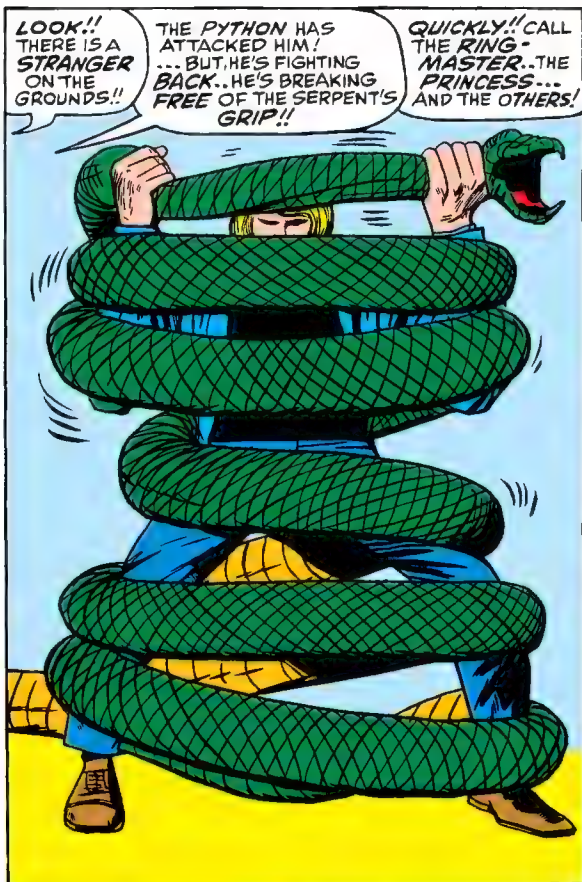
WE'RE ATTEMPTING OUR GREATEST CRIME...THE MOST DARING ROBBERY OF THE CENTURY!!

AND EVERYTHING DEPENDS UPON HAVING A STRONG MAN WITH ENOUGH POWER TO DO THE JOB!

LET'S GO LOOK HIM OVER!







AND NOW, ALLOW ME TO
INTRODUCE OURSELVES!

I AM **PRINCESS
PYTHON**, THE
GREATEST **SNAKE
CHARMER** ON THE
FACE OF THE EARTH!

BEHIND ME ARE THE
GREAT **GAMBINOS**..
THE **HUMAN
CANNONBALL**...
THE **CRAFTY CLOWN**..

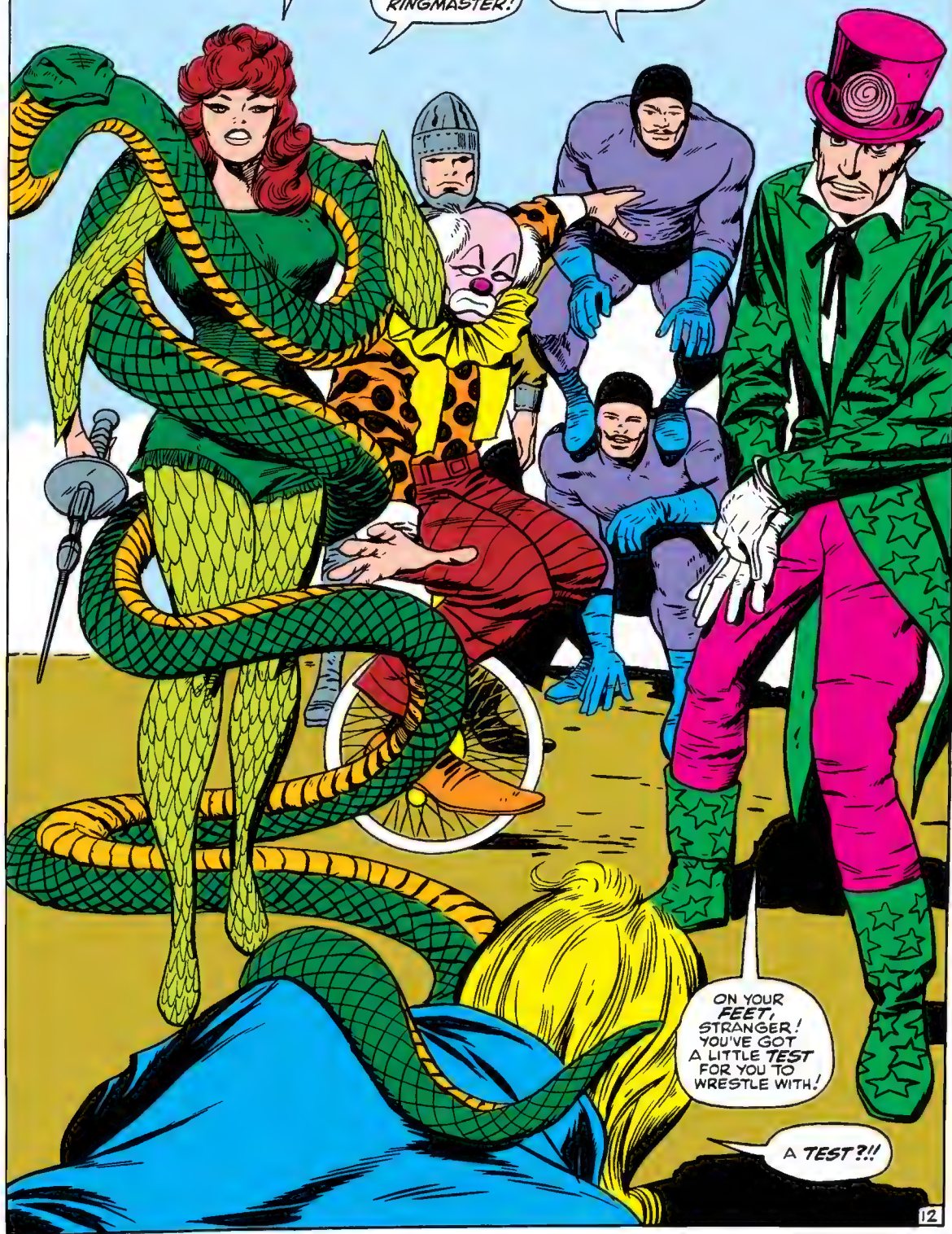
AND
STANDING
AT MY SIDE
IS..THE
RINGMASTER!

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH
YOU'VE **FOUND** THE ONE
YOU'VE BEEN **WAITING**
FOR, **RINGMASTER!**

ANYBODY WHO
COULD FREE HIM-
SELF FROM THE
PYTHON THAT WAY
HAS TO BE JUST
WHAT WE **NEED!**

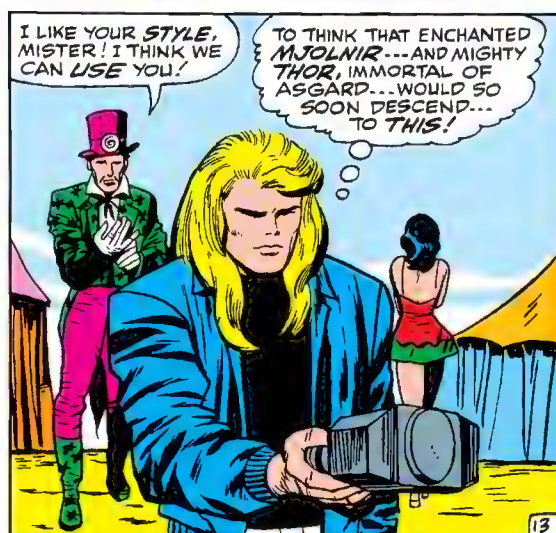
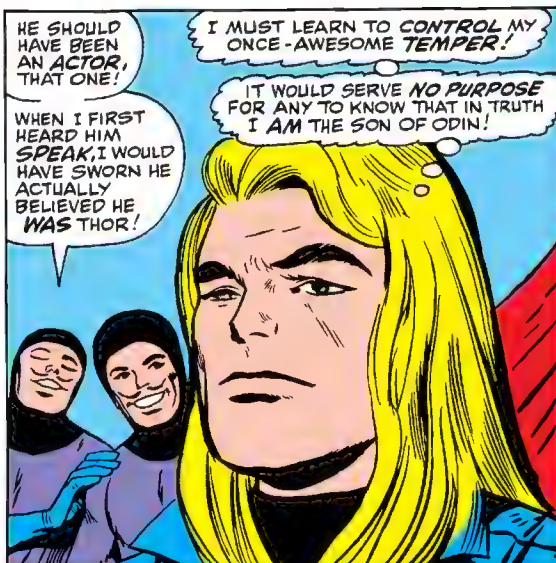
THAT REMAINS TO BE
SEEN!

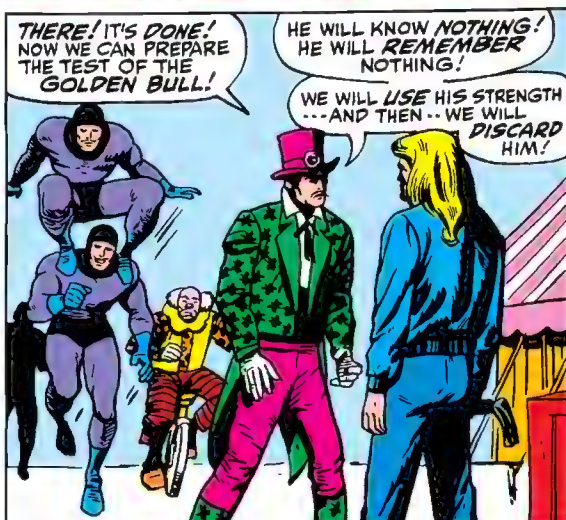
FIRST, I MUST MAKE
SURE THAT IT WASN'T
MERELY A **LUCKY
FLUKE!**



ON YOUR
FEET,
STRANGER!
YOU'VE GOT
A LITTLE **TEST**
FOR YOU TO
WRESTLE WITH!

A **TEST**??!







THERE! THAT IS BUT A LEAD MODEL OF THE REAL GOLDEN BULL...

NOW, MOUNT THE STEPS AND PREPARE TO LIFT IT!

WHICH IS THE MOST PRICELESS ART OBJECT IN ALL THE WORLD!

DISCARDING HIS JACKET, THE HYPNOTIZED ASGARDIAN BRACES HIMSELF BENEATH THE LEADEN STATUE... ABOUT TO ATTEMPT A **FEAT OF STRENGTH** WHICH, BEFORE LOSING HIS POWERS, HE COULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AS **CASUALLY** AS YOU OR I MIGHT LIFT A NEWSPAPER...!

I HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO LIFT THIS GIANT, SIZED STATUE!

THEREFORE, IT MUST BE DONE!

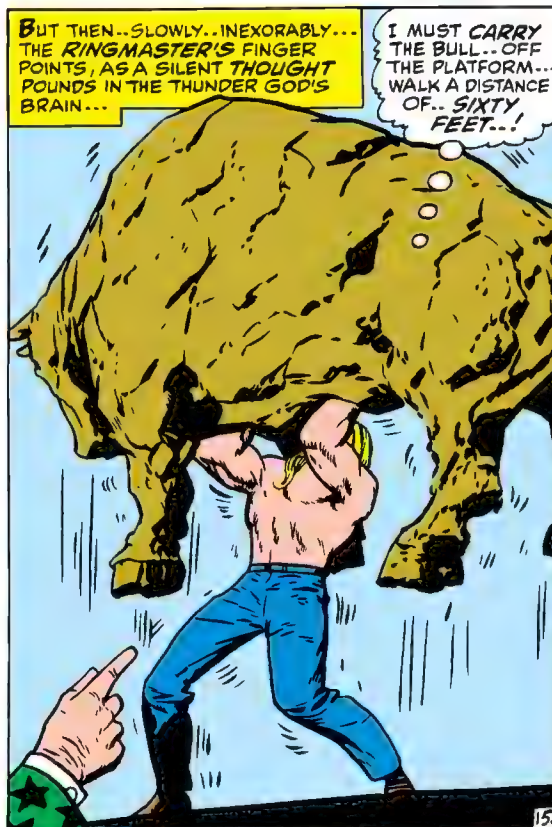


THAT REPLICA IS EXACTLY THE SAME **WEIGHT** AS THE GOLDEN ONE AT THE MUSEUM!

IF HE CAN LIFT...

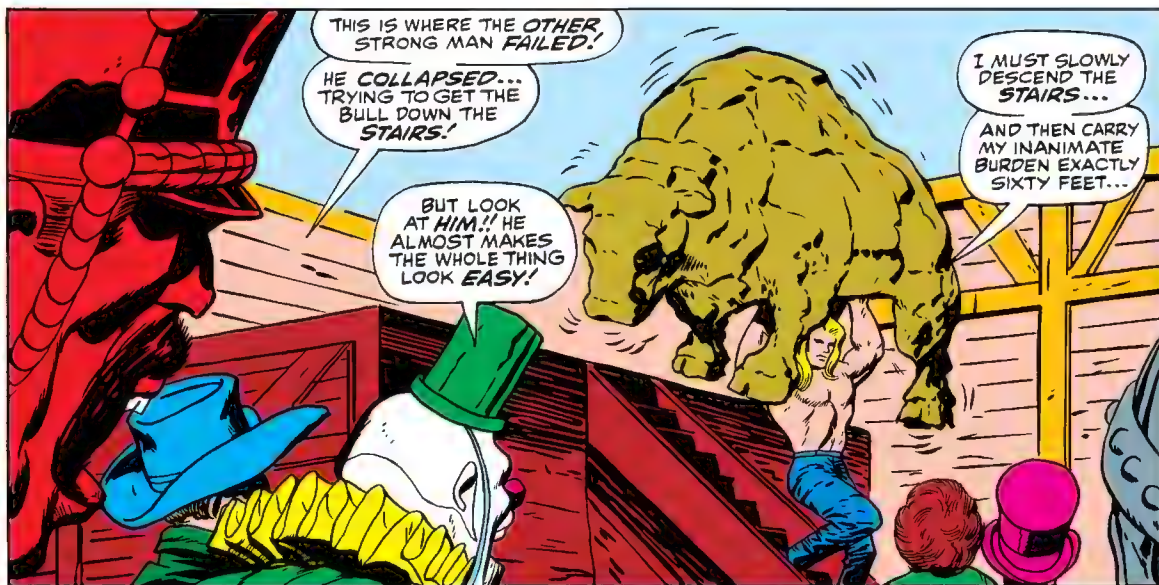
LOOK! HE'S DOING IT! HE'S ACTUALLY HOLDING IT OFF THE GROUND!

I NEVER WOULD HAVE BELIEVED IT...!!



BUT THEN... SLOWLY... INEXORABLY... THE **RINGMASTER'S** FINGER POINTS, AS A SILENT THOUGHT POUNDS IN THE THUNDER GOD'S BRAIN...

I MUST CARRY THE BULL... OFF THE PLATFORM... WALK A DISTANCE OF... **SIXTY FEET...**!!



THIS IS WHERE THE **OTHER** STRONG MAN **FAILED!**

HE **COLLAPSED...** TRYING TO GET THE BULL DOWN THE **STAIRS!**

BUT LOOK AT **HIM!!** HE ALMOST MAKES THE WHOLE THING LOOK **EASY!**

I MUST SLOWLY DESCEND THE **STAIRS...**

AND THEN CARRY MY INANIMATE BURDEN EXACTLY **SIXTY FEET...**



...FIFTY-EIGHT! FIFTY-NINE! **SIXTY!**

HE **DID IT!** HE ACTUALLY **DID IT!**

NOW...ALL HE MUST DO...IS PUT IT **DOWN...** GENTLY...WITHOUT **SMASHING IT!!**



I HAVE DONE ...AS I WAS **TOLD TO DO!**

EXCELLENT! EXCELLENT! YOU PASSED THE TEST **PERFECTLY!**



WITH MY **HYPNOTIC POWER...** THE TALENTS OF MY **CIRCUS OF CRIME...** AND THIS BUFFOON'S **STRENGTH** THE GOLDEN BULL IS AS GOOD AS **MINE!**

I'D BETTER SNAP HIM **OUT OF IT NOW!**



WAKE UP! YOU MUST REMEMBER **NOTHING** OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED!



THE **JOB IS YOURS!** AND I WILL CALL YOU... **THOR!**

THOUGH IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE **WHAT** YOU'RE CALLED! ONCE YOU'VE SERVED MY **PURPOSE...** YOU **DIE!**

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

"THE END!"

HAIL TO VALOROUS
VOLSTAGG! THOU
HAST DEFEATED
THE FORTY HORSE-
MEN OF SATAN!*

THOUGH
MODESTY BE
MY MIDDLE
NAME--STILL
DO THESE
PLAUDITS
PLEASE
ME!

THIS WEAPON,
WHICH I
DARINGLY
SEIZED FROM
MOGUL'S
ARSENAL HATH
TRULY TURNED
THE TIDE!

NOW--ALL
THAT REMAINS
IS THE TOTAL
DEFEAT OF
THE MURDEROUS
MOGUL HIMSELF!

TRIUMPH,
AT LAST,
SHALL BE
OURS!

WITH
HAMMER,
BLADE,
AND
MACE
WE SHALL
NOW PUT
ALL TO
RIGHTS!

ALL
HONOR
TO NOBLE
ASGARD!

HER
WARRIORS
HAVE
ACHIEVED--
THE
IMPOSSIBLE!

KNOW YE ALL...
STAN **JACK**
(THE MAN) (KING)
LEE and KIRBY
HAVE, FOR THEE ALONE,
CREATED YONDER
MASTERWORK!

AIDED, MOST ABLY, BY:
VINCENT COLLETTA,
EMBELLISHER
ARTIE SIMEK,
LETTERER

THUS SPEAKETH FORBUSH!

*RIGHT HERE--SAME
TIME, SAME PLACE,
LAST ISH/
--SUCCINCT STAN

AND NOW, AS SURELY AS THE
RAINBOW BRIDGE DOTH STAND,
MIRACLES AWAIT THEE--



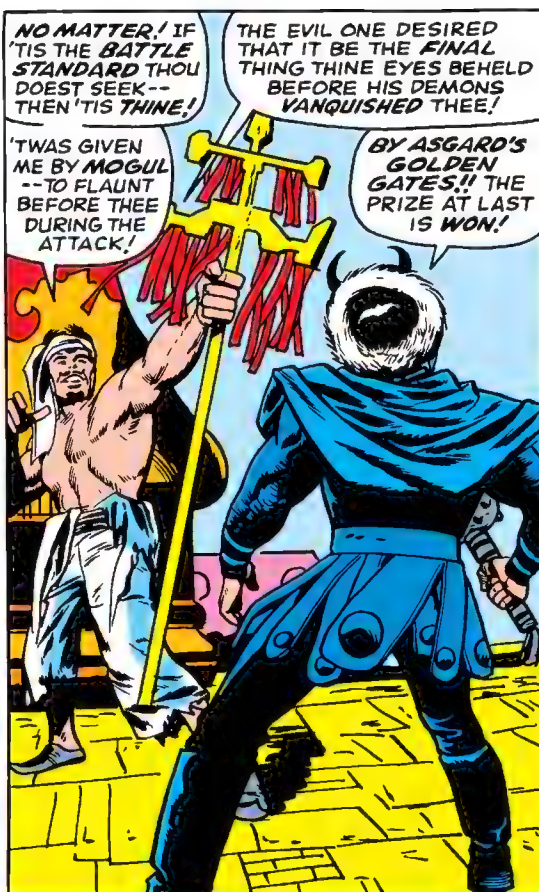
NOW, ONLY **MOGUL** STANDS BETWEEN **ME** AND THE STOLEN **BATTLE STANDARD** OF MY CAPTIVE PEOPLE!

WE MUST BE **CAUTIOUS!** **MOGUL** WIELDS DEADLY **MYSTIC POWERS!**

HE IS ALMOST THE EQUAL OF VALIANT **VOLSTAGG!**

ARE *THOSE* THE WORDS OF HIM WHO KNOWS NOT THE MEANING OF FEAR??

FEAR? WHO SPEAKS OF *FEAR?* *PANIC* PERHAPS-- BUT *NEVER* FEAR!



'T WAS GIVEN ME BY **MOGUL** --TO FLAUNT BEFORE THEE DURING THE ATTACK!

THE EVIL ONE DESIRED THAT IT BE THE **FINAL** THING THINE EYES BEHELD BEFORE HIS DEMONS **VANQUISHED** THEE!

BY **ASGARD'S GOLDEN GATES!!** THE PRIZE AT LAST IS WON!



WITH THIS SACRED **SYMBOL** IN MY HANDS ONCE MORE, MY PEOPLE SHALL BE **FREE!**

AS FOR *ME*-- I AM AS I WAS-- CLOTHED IN **RAGS!**

THE **FINERY** IN WHICH I HAD BEEN GARBED WAS BUT ANOTHER **ILLUSION** OF **MYSTIC MOGUL!**

I SAY THEE **NAY!**

THOU HAST THE WORD OF **THOR**-- WHEN THIS **QUEST** BE FINALLY O'ER-- THOU SHALT BE **PRINCE** OF ALL THE REALM!



NOW, ON TO THE PALACE--!

WE DO STRIKE FOR **ASGARD!**

FOR ASGAAARD!

BUT, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE MURDEROUS **MOGUL** IS FAR FROM THE ROYAL PALACE--AS HE MAGICALLY SOARS ABOVE THE SEEMINGLY-DOOMED, BUT STILL-DEFIANT LAND OF **HOGUN, THE GRIM--**



STILL DO THE POWERLESS FOOLS SEEK TO **SLAY** THEIR MYSTIC MASTER!

BUT, WITHIN **SECONDS**, IT WILL BE **TOO LATE!**



SINCE **HOGUN--** AND HIS ASGARDIAN ALLIES HAVE DARED **DEFY** ME--

I WILL NOW **UNLEASH** THE MOST **DEADLY** ATTACK OF **ALL!**



ONCE THIS ENCHANTED POTION OF **SPOTTED PLAGUE** IS SPREAD O'ER **HOGUN'S LAND--**

NOT A LIVING THING SHALL REMAIN **ALIVE!**



AND, EVEN AS THE MONARCH OF THE MYSTIC MOUNTAIN BEGINS TO **LOOSEN** THE FATEFUL **LID--**

MOGUL IS NOT **HERE!** HE HATH **ESCAPED** US ONCE MORE!

BUT HE LEFT **BEHIND** HIS MYSTIC PARAPHERNELIA!

TO WHAT **AVAIL**, IF NONE BUT **HE** CAN USE IT?

NOT SO, ASGARDIAN! MANY TIME HAS **ALIBAR** SPIED UPON THE EVIL ONE--AND THUS LEARNED **MUCH!**



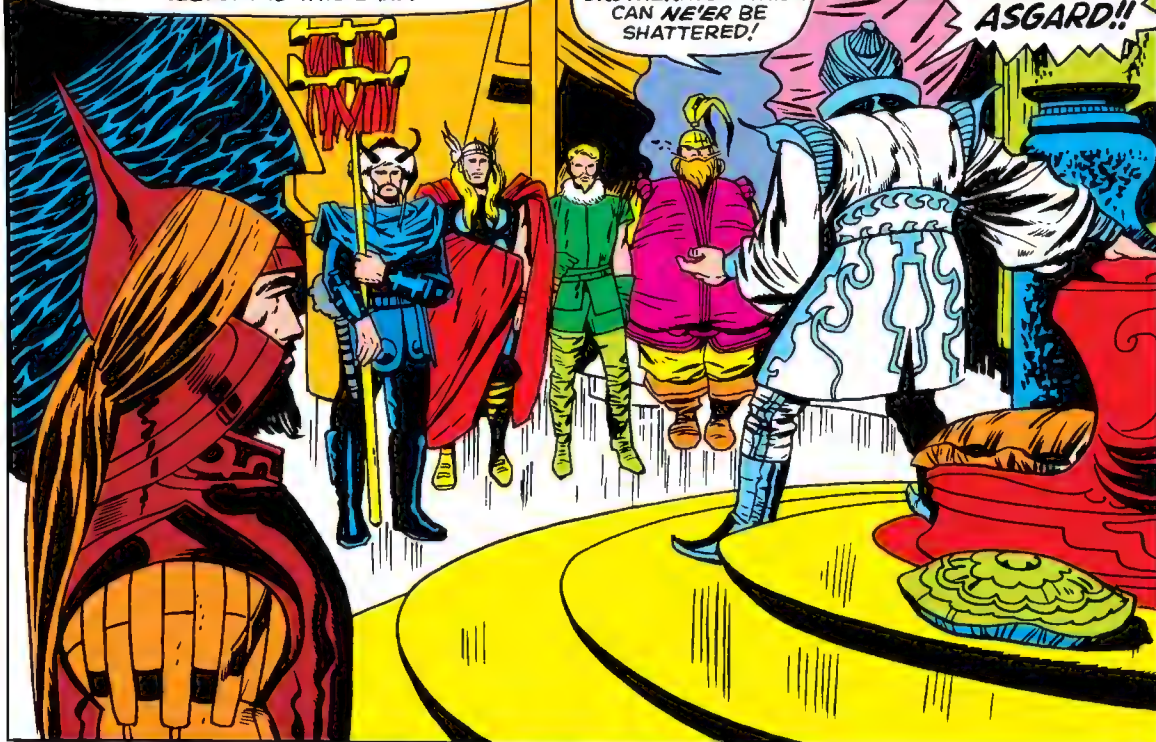
AND, A SHORT TIME LATER, THAT MATTER TOO IS RESOLVED, AS A NEW PRINCE ASCENDS THE REGAL THRONE OF ZANADU--

EVER WILL THE HEART OF PRINCE ALIBAR HOLD BOUNDLESS GRATITUDE FOR THOSE WHO CAME FROM A DISTANT REALM TO BRING FREEDOM TO THIS LAND!

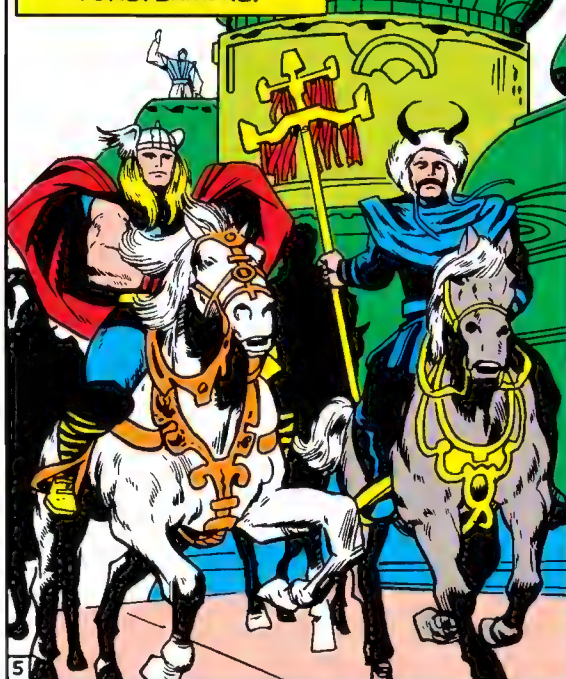
FROM THIS MOMENT HENCE, MY PEOPLE AND THINE ARE JOINED BY BONDS OF BROTHERHOOD WHICH CAN NE'ER BE SHATTERED!

EVER SHALL ZANADU ECHO THE RINGING WORDS--

GLORY BE TO ASGARD!!



THUS, OUR SAGA ENDS--
AS ALL SUCH QUESTS
MUST END--WITH
TYRANNY DESTROYED--
WITH FREEDOM TRIUMPHANT--
--FOREVERMORE!



FOR, SO LONG AS THERE
EVIL--SO LONG AS THERE
BE SERVITUDE--SO TOO
SHALL THERE BE
CHAMPIONS WHO NE'ER
WILL REST TILL ALL
HUMANITY HAS REACHED
THE PROMISED GOAL OF
FREEDOM AND JUSTICE
FOR ALL!



BEGINNING NEXT ISSUE--
**THE ORIGIN OF
THE
INHUMANS!**
'NUFF SAID!



THE MIGHTY THOR

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"..IF THE
THUNDER
BE GONE!"

THE MIGHTY THOR!

"--IF THE
THUNDER
BE GONE!"

HIS THUNDER GOD
POWER TAKEN FROM
HIM BY AN ANGRY
ODIN, MIGHTY THOR
FINDS EMPLOYMENT
AS--A CIRCUS
STRONG-MAN!

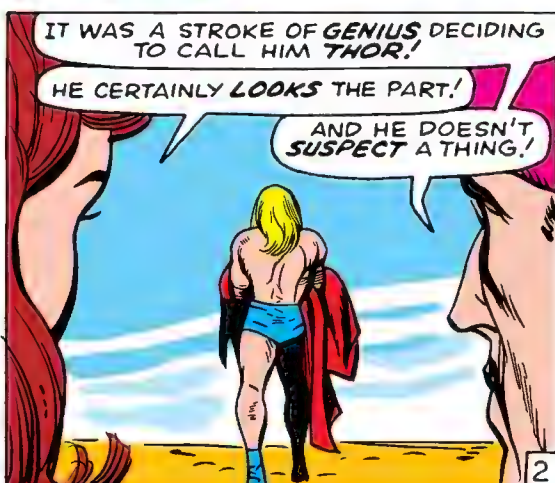
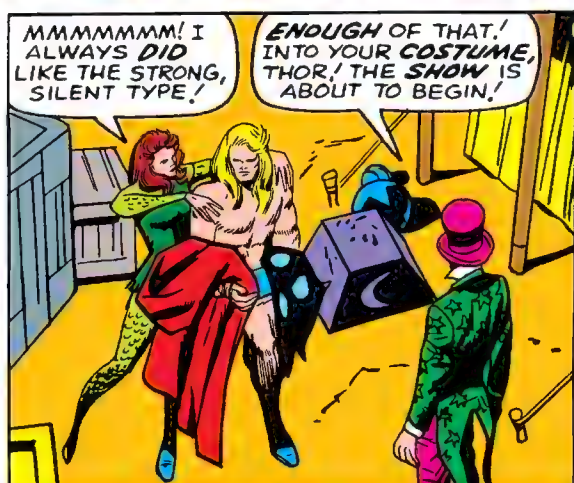
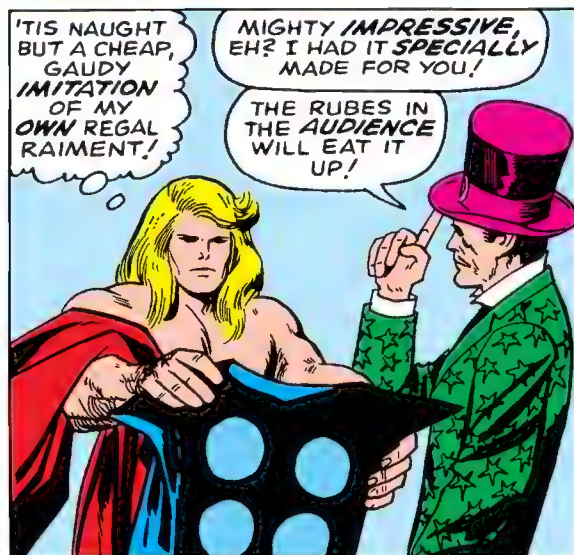
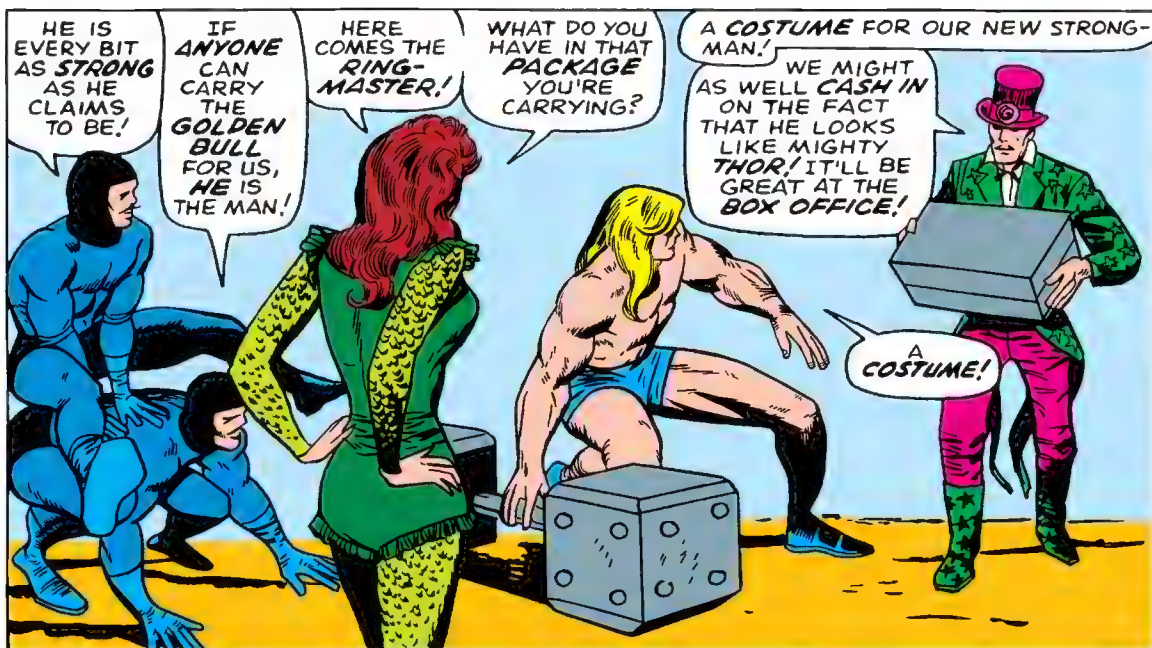
--BUT, THE NOBLE
ASGARDIAN, ALAS,
DOES NOT SUSPECT
THAT HE HAS BEEN
HIRED BY AN EVIL
ARCH-FIEND,
WHO IS PLANNING
ONE OF THE
GREATEST CRIMES
OF ALL TIME!

STAN ^(THE MAN) LEE and JACK ^(KING) KIRBY
FESTIVAL OF FABULOUS FANTASY!

DELINEATION:
VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERING:
ARTIE SIMEK

AND NOW, LET'S JOIN OUR
COLORFUL CAST AS THEY PRE-
PARE FOR THE DRAMATIC THEFT
OF THE GOLDEN BULL--





OKAY--
TO
WORK!
ALL
OF
YOU!

I WANT YOU TO
KEEP REHEARSING
UNTIL I'M SURE
THERE'LL BE NO
SLIP-UPS!

POOR **THOR**!
HE KNOWS **LESS**
ABOUT WHAT
WE'VE PLANNED
FOR HIM THAN
MY LOYAL
PYTHON DOES!

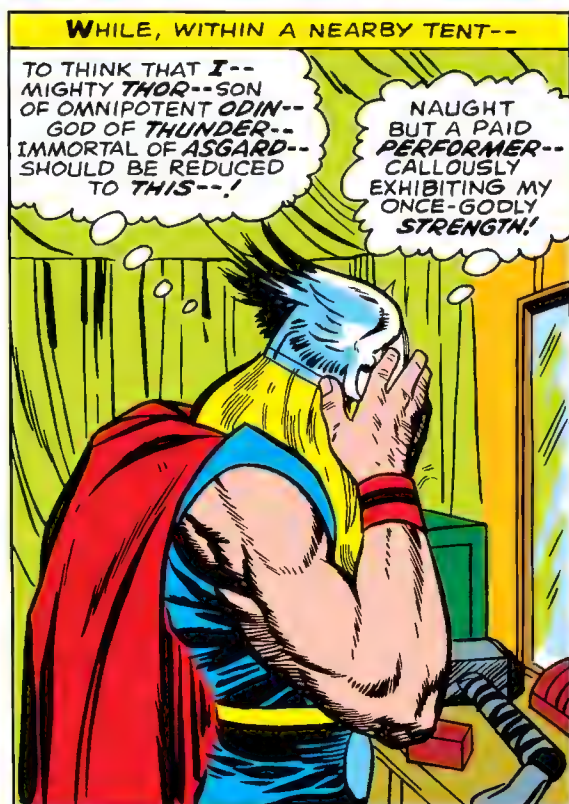


**FORGET ABOUT
THOR!**

THE **GOLDEN
BULL** IS WORTH
AT LEAST
**TWENTY
MILLION
DOLLARS!**
CONCENTRATE
ON THAT!

DO NOT WORRY! WHEN THE
TIME COMES, **PRINCESS
PYTHON** WILL DO HER
PART!

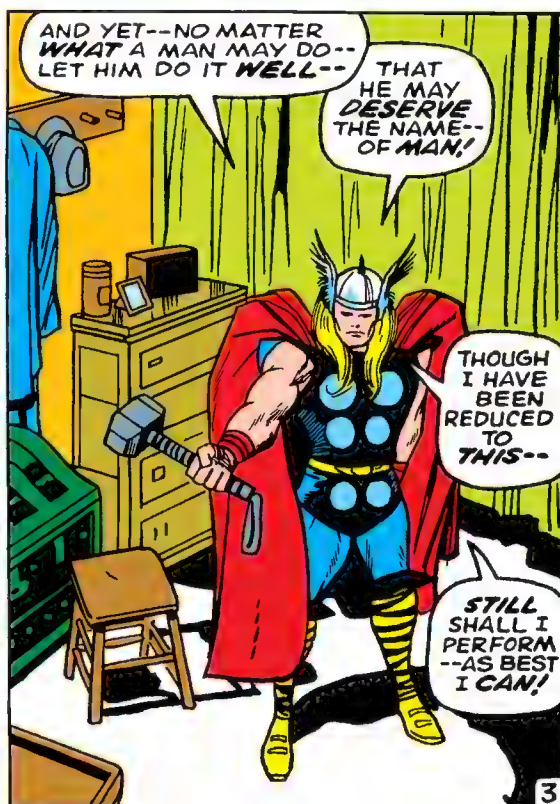
FEMALES AND
SNAKES!! I DON'T
TRUST ANY OF
THEM!



WHILE, WITHIN A NEARBY TENT--

TO THINK THAT **I--**
MIGHTY **THOR--** SON
OF OMNIPOTENT **ODIN--**
GOD OF **THUNDER--**
IMMORTAL OF **ASGARD--**
SHOULD BE REDUCED
TO **THIS--!**

NAUGHT
BUT A PAID
PERFORMER--
CALLOUSLY
EXHIBITING MY
ONCE-GODLY
STRENGTH!



AND YET--NO MATTER
WHAT A MAN MAY DO--
LET HIM DO IT **WELL--**

THAT
HE MAY
DESERVE
THE NAME--
OF MAN!

THOUGH
I HAVE
BEEN
REDUCED
TO **THIS--**

STILL
SHALL I
PERFORM
--AS BEST
I CAN!

MINUTES LATER, THE *SHOW* BEGINS.' AS THE COSTUMED TROUPE MAKES ITS *GRAND ENTRANCE* PAST THE CHEERING THRONGS, NONE OF THE WIDE-EYED SPECTATORS IS AWARE THAT HE IS REALLY BEHOLDING--THE RING-MASTER'S *CIRCUS OF CRIME--!!*



BUT THEN, THE **OLDER** MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE BEGIN TO **CRY OUT** IN DERISIVE DISBELIEF--

MIGHTY **THOR** WOULDN'T BE ACTING IN ANY TWO-BIT CIRCUS!

HE'S A **PHONY!!** WHO **NEEDS** 'IM?

BOOO! THROW THE BUM OUT!

QUIET! QUIET!! HE'LL **PROVE** HE'S THE **REAL THOR!**

IT **DISPLEASES** THEM THAT ANY WOULD DARE IMPERSONATE THE **TRUE THUNDER GOD!**

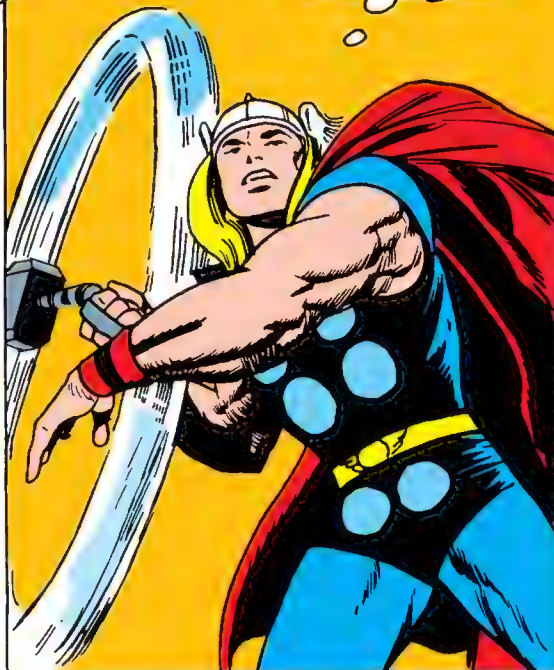


HURL YOUR **HAMMER**, THUNDER GOD!

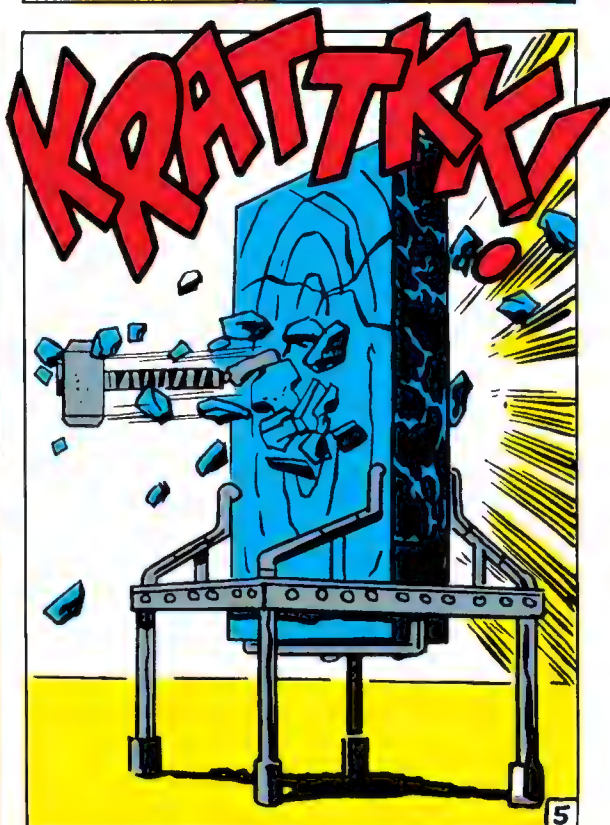
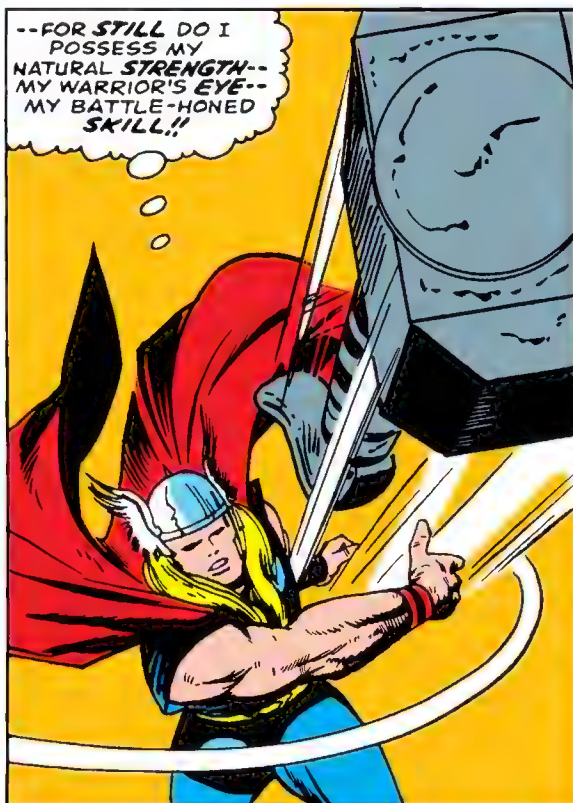
HURL IT AS ONLY THE SON OF **ODIN** CAN--!!

HE HAS PLACED A **GRANITE TARGET** UPON A PLATFORM YONDER!

ALTHOUGH MY MIGHTY MALLET HAS **LOST** ITS AWESOME ENCHANTMENT--**STILL** I SHALL NOT FAIL!



--FOR **STILL** DO I POSSESS MY NATURAL **STRENGTH**-- MY WARRIOR'S **EYE**-- MY BATTLE-HONED **SKILL!!**



BUT EVEN AFTER THE DRAMATIC FEAT IS ACCOMPLISHED--

WHAT DOES THAT PROVE??

IF HE'S THE REAL THOR-- WHY DOESN'T THE HAMMER RETURN TO HIM??

ANYONE MIGHT HAVE TOSSED THAT THING!

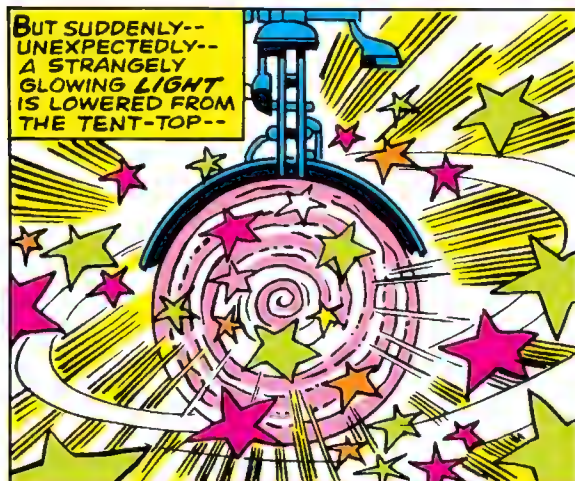
KEEP WATCHING!! IT WILL RETURN!

HE KNOWS *NOT* WHAT HE SAYS!

MY REGAL FATHER, IN HIS ALL-CONSUMING WRATH, HAS REMOVED THE ENCHANTMENT FROM ONCE-MAGICAL MJOLNIR!

THUS, IT CAN NO LONGER RETURN TO ITS DEPOSED MASTER!

BUT SUDDENLY-- UNEXPECTEDLY-- A STRANGELY GLOWING LIGHT IS LOWERED FROM THE TENT-TOP--



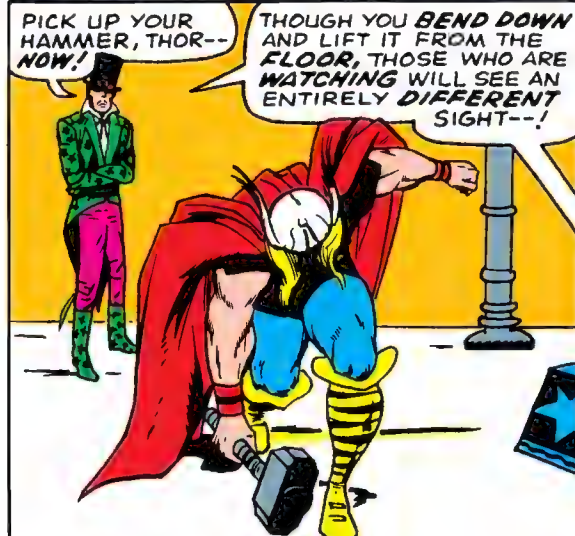
--A LIGHT WHICH IS THE EXACT DUPLICATE OF THE WHIRLING DESIGN UPON THE RINGMASTER'S HAT--!

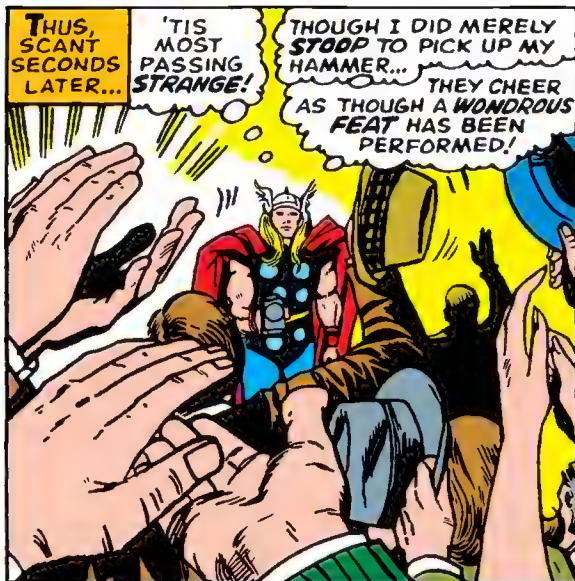
AND, WITHIN SECONDS, EVERY MEMBER OF THE VAST AUDIENCE IS SUBJECT TO A STRANGE HYPNOTIC TRANCE--



PICK UP YOUR HAMMER, THOR-- NOW!

THOUGH YOU BEND DOWN AND LIFT IT FROM THE FLOOR, THOSE WHO ARE WATCHING WILL SEE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SIGHT--!





THUS, SCANT SECONDS LATER...

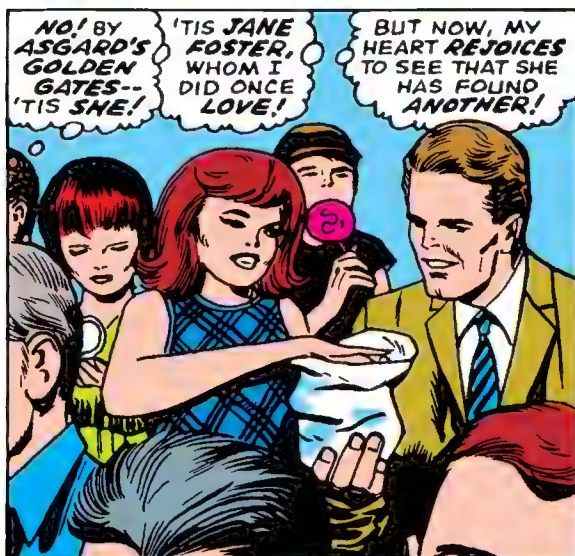
'TIS MOST PASSING STRANGE!

THOUGH I DID MERELY STOOD TO PICK UP MY HAMMER... THEY CHEER AS THOUGH A WONDROUS FEAT HAS BEEN PERFORMED!



NEVER SHALL I TRULY FATHOM THE ODD BEHAVIOR OF EARTHLY MORTALS!

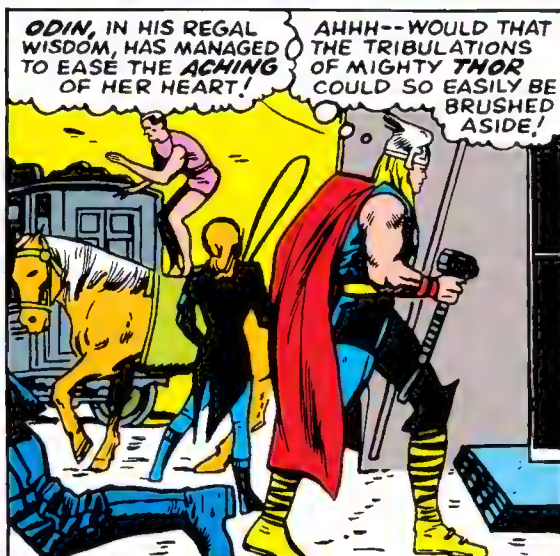
BUT, STAY! WHAT IS THIS?! DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME?! HAS THE LOSS OF MY POWER AFFECTED MY VISION? DO I SEE WHAT IS NOT THERE?



NO! BY ASGARD'S GOLDEN GATES-- 'TIS SHE!

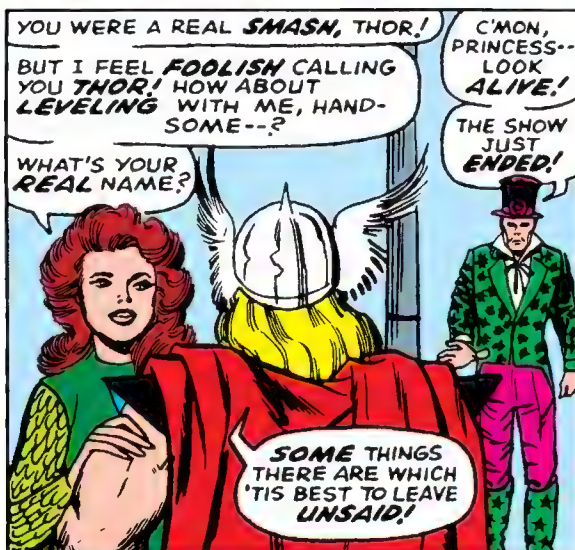
'TIS JANE FOSTER, WHOM I DID ONCE LOVE!

BUT NOW, MY HEART REJOICES TO SEE THAT SHE HAS FOUND ANOTHER!



ODIN, IN HIS REGAL WISDOM, HAS MANAGED TO EASE THE ACHING OF HER HEART!

AHHH--WOULD THAT THE TRIBULATIONS OF MIGHTY THOR COULD SO EASILY BE BRUSHED ASIDE!



YOU WERE A REAL SMASH, THOR!

BUT I FEEL FOOLISH CALLING YOU THOR! HOW ABOUT LEVELING WITH ME, HAND-SOME--?

WHAT'S YOUR REAL NAME?

C'MON, PRINCESS-- LOOK ALIVE!

THE SHOW JUST ENDED!

SOME THINGS THERE ARE WHICH 'TIS BEST TO LEAVE UNSAID!



WHICH MEANS IT'S TIME FOR THE REAL PERFORMANCE TO BEGIN!

OF WHAT REAL PERFORMANCE DO YOU SPEAK?

LOOK INTO MY EYES--AND YOU WILL LEARN--!



AND NOW--MY **NAT!** GAZE **DEEP** INTO THE **CIRCLE** WHICH YOU SEE BEFORE YOU!

I--SEE IT--**MOVE!** IT BEGINS--TO **SPIN!**



YOUR WILL IS **LEAVING** YOU! YOUR WILL IS BECOMING **MINE!**

THE **RINGMASTER** ALONE CAN GIVE YOU **ORDERS!**

--AND YOU **MUST OBEY!**



IT IS **DONE!** HE IS COMPLETELY UNDER MY **CONTROL!** NOW, LET US **BEGIN!**

I--**MUST--OBEY!**

WE'RE ALL **READY!** NOTHING'LL STOP US FROM GETTING THE **GOLDEN BULL!**



AND, SPEAKING OF THE PRICELESS **STATUE**, LET'S VISIT THE **MUSEUM** IN WHICH IT IS HOUSED--A SHORT TIME LATER--

I THOUGHT I HEARD A **TRUCK** PULLING UP OUTSIDE!

ME TOO! BUT **WHY?** IT'S TOO **LATE** FOR ANY **DELIVERIES!**



WE MIGHT AS WELL GO AND **CHECK!**

IT'LL GIVE US SOMETHING TO **DO**, ANYHOW!

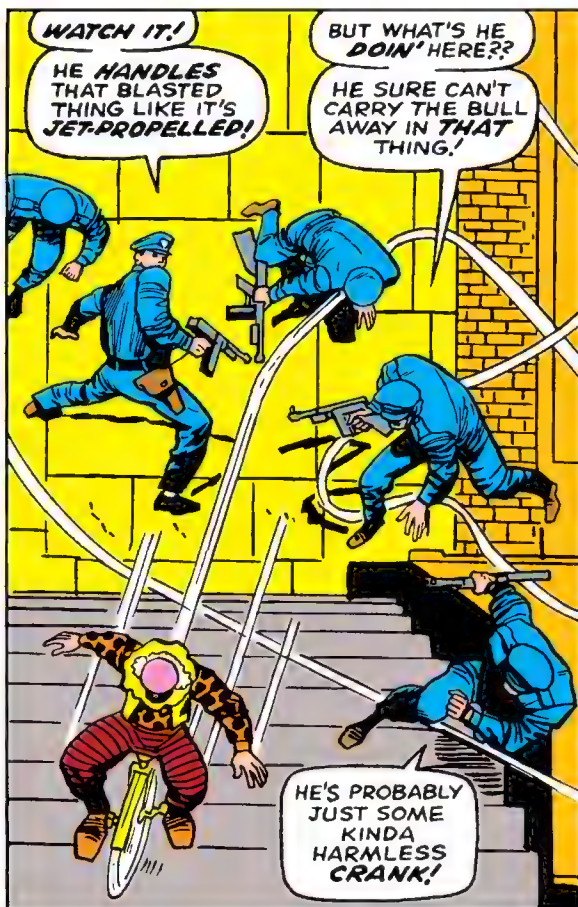
I FEEL LIKE A **NUT**, STANDIN' AROUND TO GUARD SOMETHIN' THAT AN **ARMY** COULDN'T MANAGE TO CARRY **OUT** OF HERE!

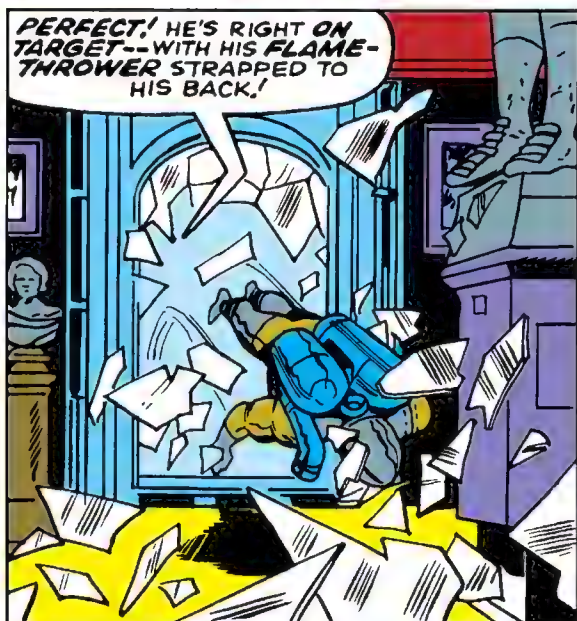
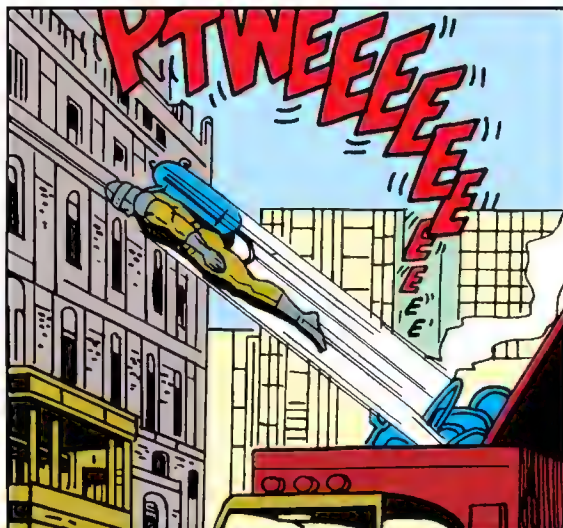
HEY! WHO'S **THAT?**

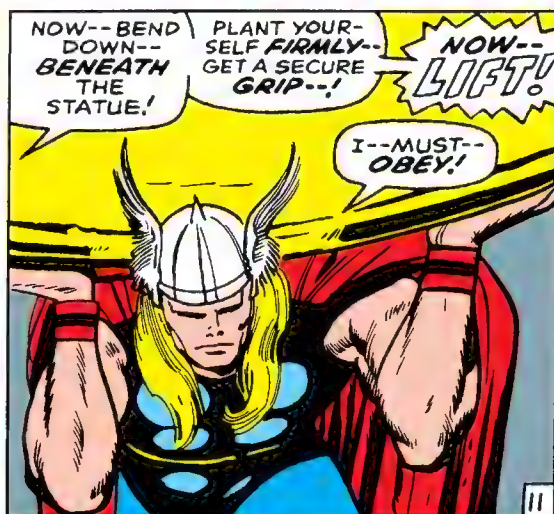
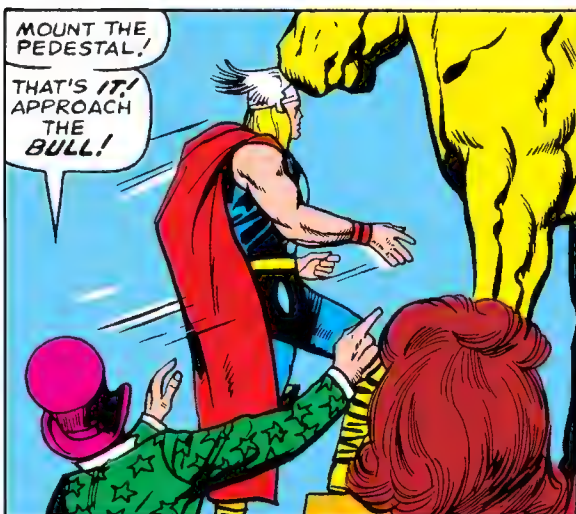
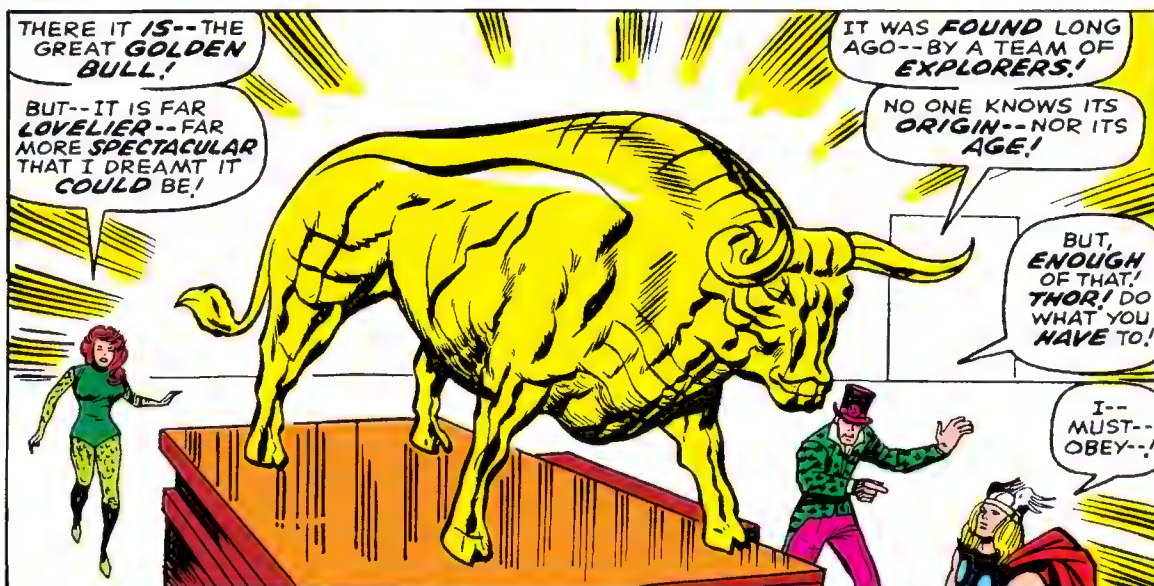
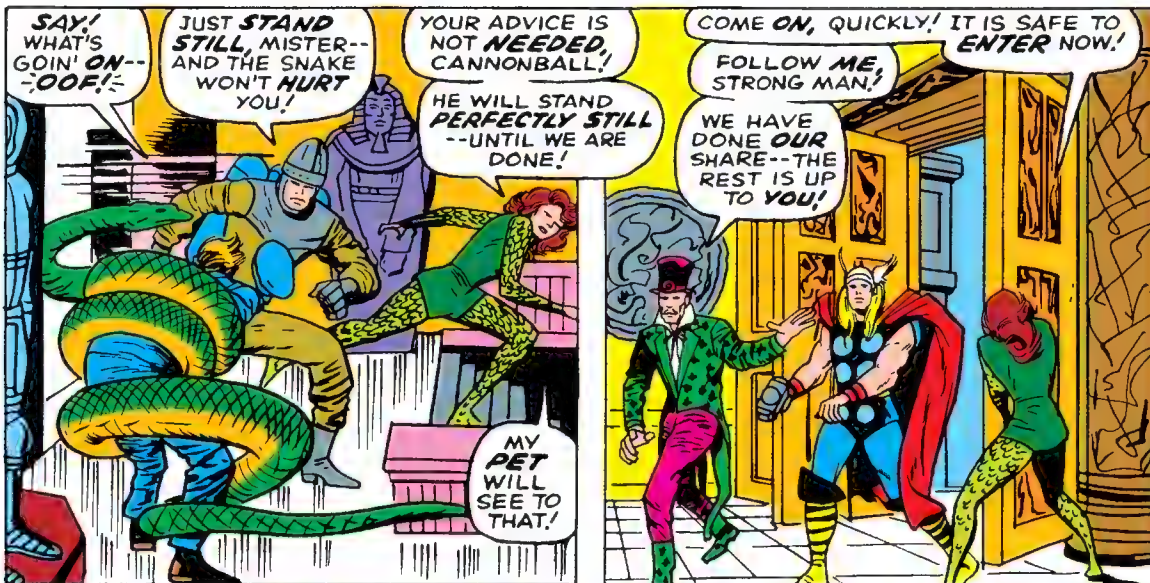
SOME KINDA **CLOWN--** SCOOTIN' AROUND ON A **UNICYCLE!**

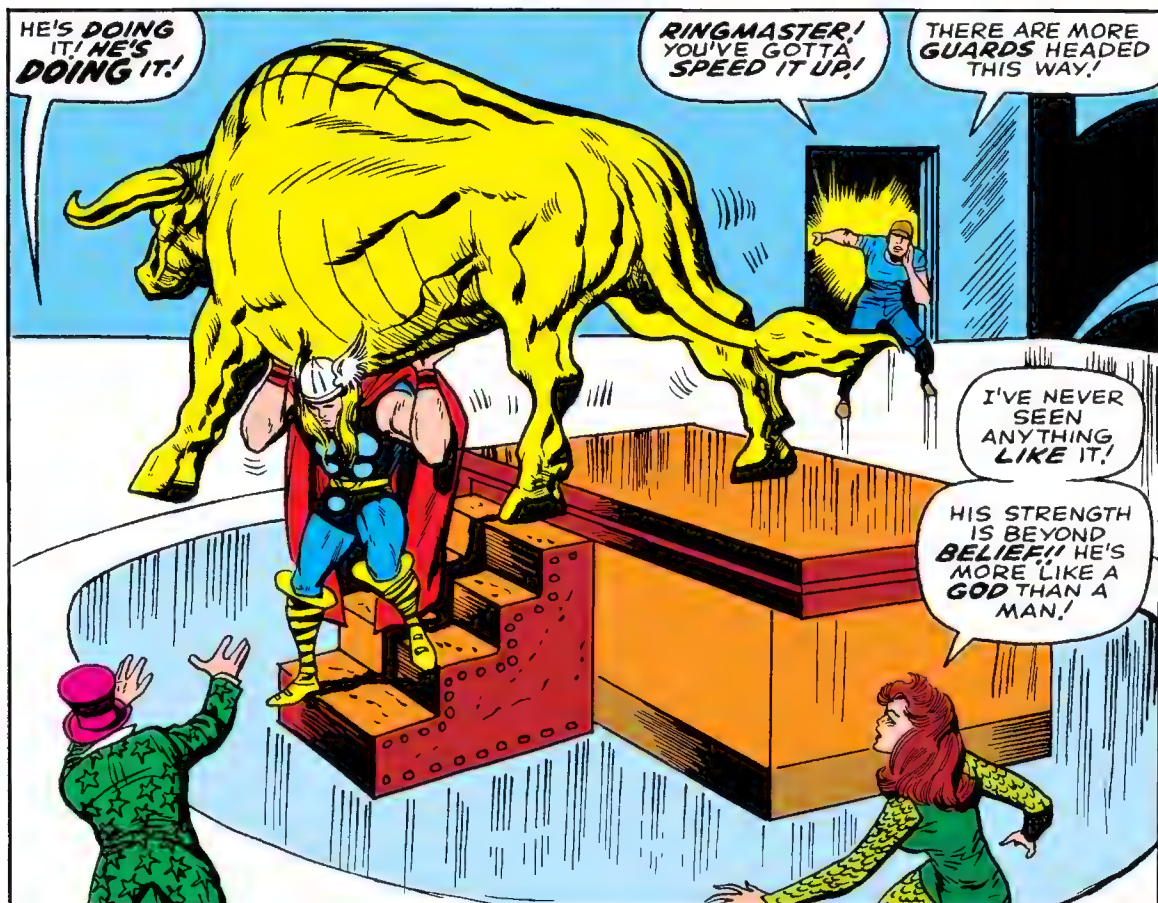
HOLD IT, MISTER! YOU'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE!

DON'T TAKE ANY **BETS** ON THAT, MY **FRIEND!**

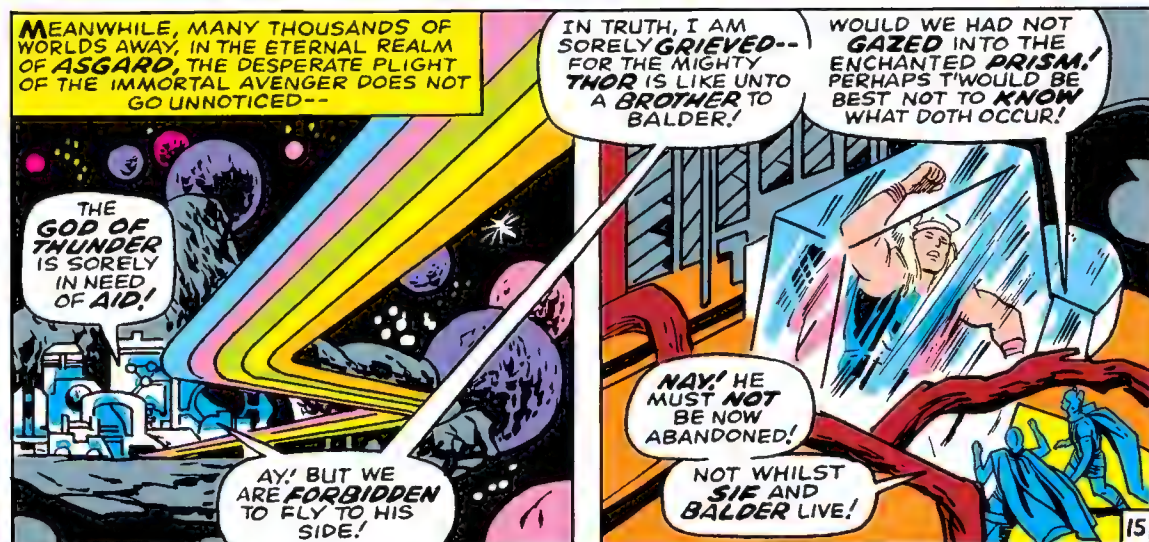
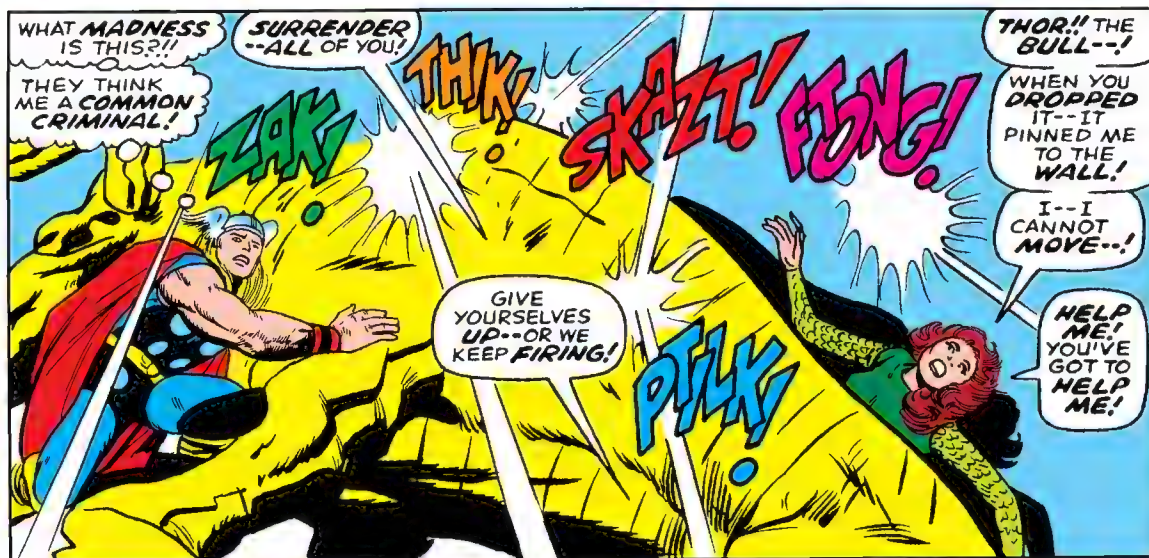












THE HEART OF **BALDER** DOTH ECHO THY WORDS, FAIR SIF!

BUT, WE DARE NOT **DEFEY** THE WILL OF IMPERIAL **ODIN!**

BUT, THOUGH THE **ALL-FATHER** IS AGGRIEVED WITH HIS WARRIOR SON-- **STILL** IS THE THUNDER GOD FLESH OF HIS FLESH--AND BLOOD OF HIS BLOOD--!

AND, EVEN AS THE HEARTSICK MAIDEN TURNS HER THOUGHTS TO THE **OMNIPOTENT ONE**-- WE FIND REGAL **ODIN** ABSORBED IN HIS **OWN MAJESTIC MUSINGS**--

THOUGH HE BE **DEARER** TO ME THAN A THOUSAND **WORLDS**--

'TIS **I** WHO AM THE **FATHER!** 'TIS **HE** WHO MUST BE EVER THE DUTIFUL **SON!**

NOT EVEN MIGHTY **THOR** MAY BE PERMITTED THE SIN SUPREME-- THE SIN OF IMPERIAL **DISOBEDIENCE!**

THUS HE BE SENTENCED TO **EARTH**--

AND **THERE** SHALL HE **REMAIN**--STRIPPED OF ALL ASGARDIAN **POWER**--TILL HIS **PENANCE** SHALL BE DONE!

AND, SPEAKING OF **PENANCE**--HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BE IN A SPOT LIKE **THIS**--?

THOR! THIS IS OUR **LAST WARNING!**

GIVE YOURSELF **UP**--OR WE **CLOSE IN!**

AND WE ALL KNOW HOW **POWERFUL** YOU ARE--!

SO THAT MEANS--WE'LL COME IN **SHOOTING!**

IF I SUBMIT TO **IGNOMINIOUS CAPTURE**, THE **GOD OF THUNDER** SHALL BE TRIED AND SENTENCED LIKE THE **BASEST CRIMINAL!**

YET--HOW CAN I **BATTLE** THOSE WHOM I AM SWORN TO **PROTECT!**

THOR--HELP ME!

HE'S **NOT YIELDING!**

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO **WAIT** ANY LONGER!

BAKOW!

I HAVE DALLIED **TOO LONG!** THE **DIE** IS CAST!

NEXT: THE WRATH OF ODIN!



THE MIGHTY THOR

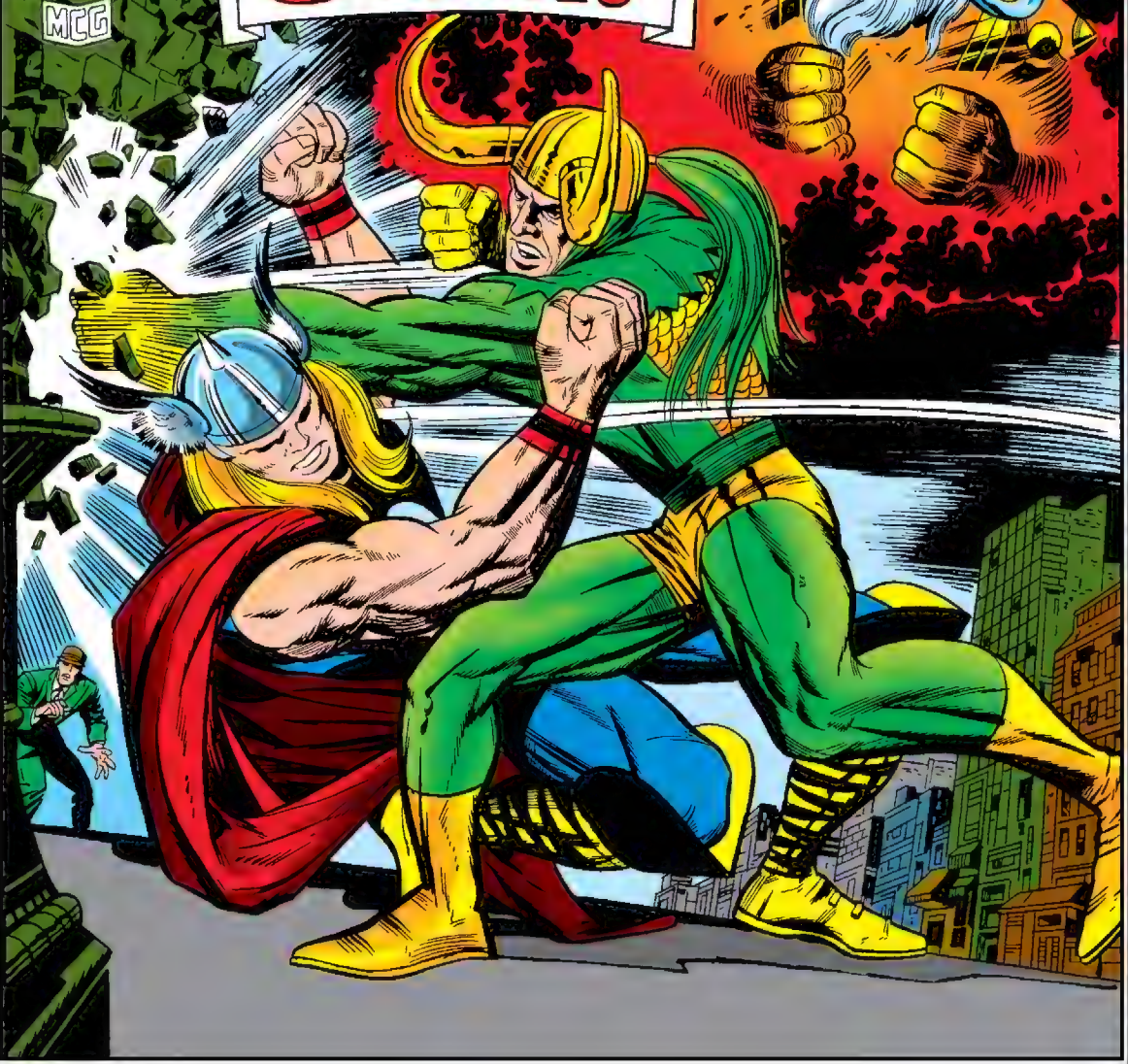
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"THE WRATH OF ODIN!"



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THE MIGHTY THOR!™

"THE WRATH OF ODIN!"

HYPNOTIZED BY THE *RINGMASTER*--OUR IMMORTAL HERO, SHORN OF HIS GODLY POWER, HELPS THE *CIRCUS OF CRIME* IN ITS THEFT OF THE PRICELESS *GOLDEN BULL*! BUT THEN, THE GUNFIRE OF THE ATTACKING POLICE SNAPS THE ASGARDIAN AVENGER FROM HIS TRANCE--AND AWAAAAAY WE GO--!

THOR! WHEN YOU DROPPED THE *BULL*--IT PINNED ME TO THE WALL!

I CAN'T MOVE! ONLY YOU CAN HELP ME--!

IF I STAY-- I WILL BE IMPRISONED BY THE POLICE!

BUT I CANNOT DESERT A MORTAL IN DISTRESS!

TRY NOT TO HIT HIM, MEN!

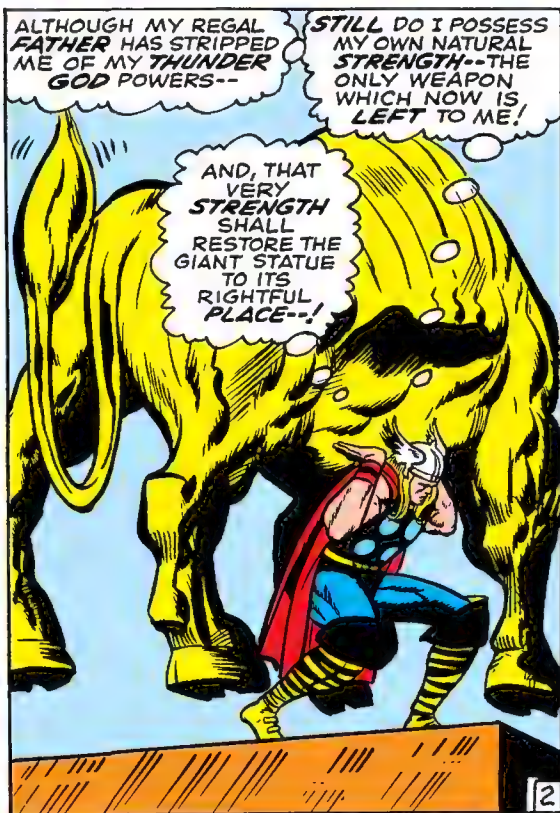
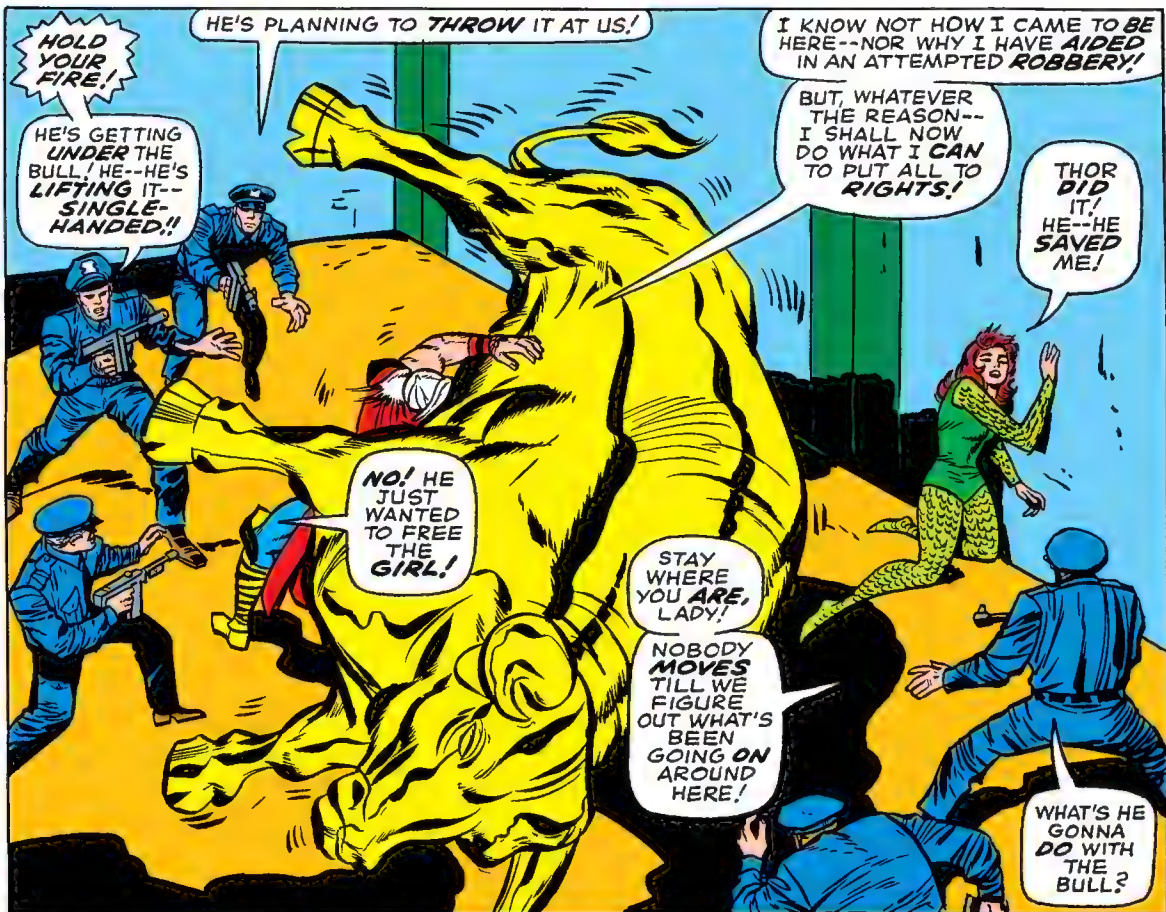
JUST KEEP HIM PINNED TILL HE SURRENDERS!

ANOTHER SMASHING
SUPER-SPECTACULAR
BY:

STAN (THE MAN) and JACK (THE KING)
LEE KIRBY

EMBELLISHMENT:
VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERING:
ARTIE SIMEK



THEN, SECONDS LATER...

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, THOR!

WE'LL BE SURE TO TELL THE D.A. THAT YOU COOPERATED WITH US AT THE LAST MINUTE!

YEAH! IT MAY INFLUENCE THE JUDGE TO GO EASY ON HIM--DURING SENTENCING!

THEN--THE SON OF ODIN-- IS TO CONSIDER HIMSELF--UNDER ARREST?!!

THAT'S THE SIZE OF IT! AND DON'T TRY ANYTHING, MISTER!

WE'RE PREPARED TO FIRE IF WE HAVETA!

NO! YOU MUSTN'T! HE'S COMPLETELY INNOCENT!

HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING! --I CAN PROVE IT!

TAKE IT EASY, LADY!

YOU'LL HAVE YOUR CHANCE TO BE HEARD-- DURING THE TRIAL!

BUT--IT'S NOT FAIR! IT ISN'T RIGHT!

LOOK-- QUIT CARRYIN' ON LIKE THAT, WILL YA?

BUT PERHAPS I HAVE ANOTHER REASON FOR MAKING NOISE!

HUH? WADDAYA MEAN?

Y'KNOW WE CAN'T RELEASE ANY OF YOU JUST ON YOUR SAY-SO!

PERHAPS I WANTED MY LOYAL PYTHON TO HEAR ME--AND COME TO MY AID!!

LOOK OUT! IT'S THAT GIANT SNAKE OF HERS!

DO NOT MOVE-- AND MY PET WILL NOT HARM YOU!

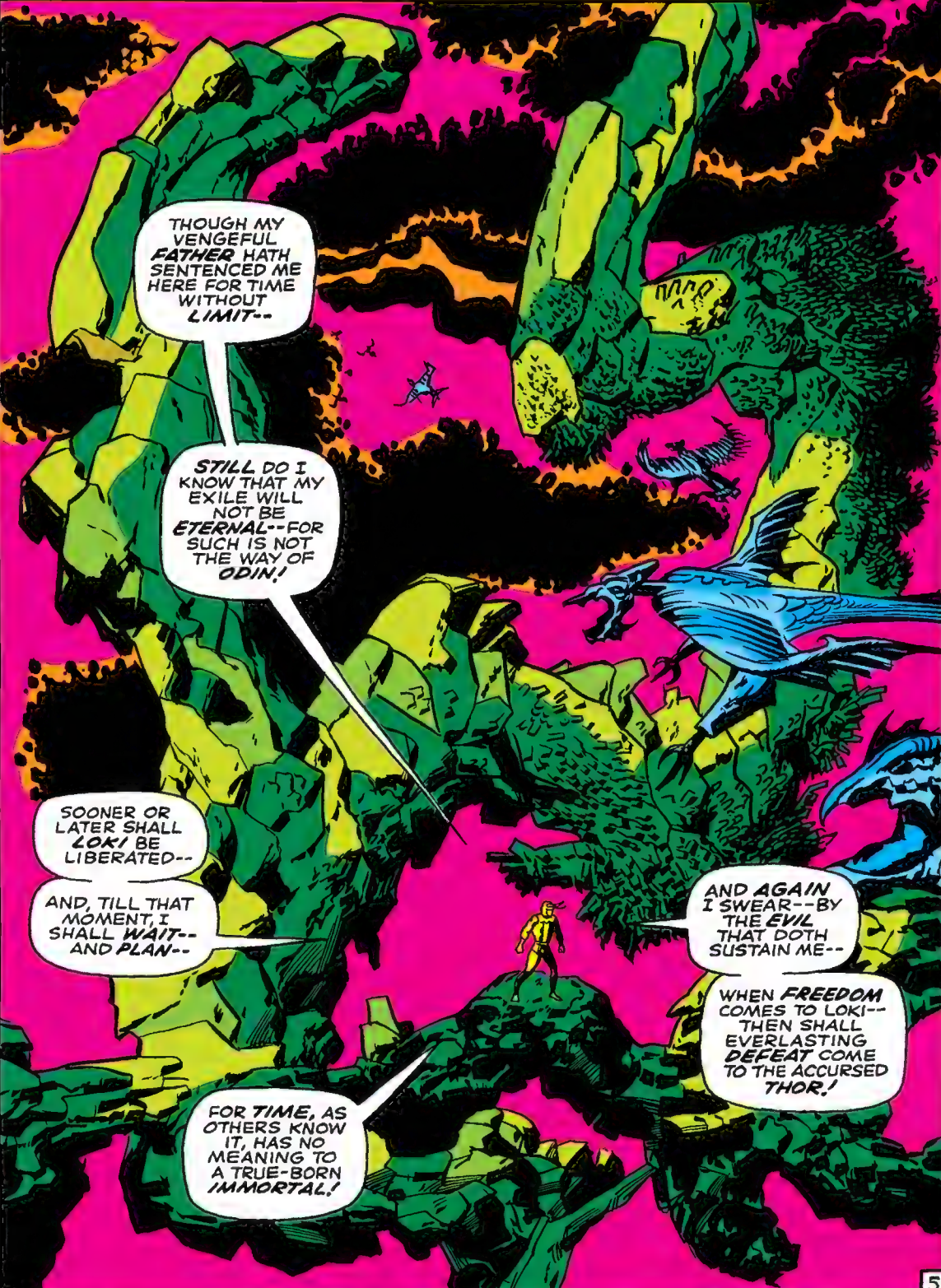
RINGMASTER --QUICK! WE MUST GO TO THE AID OF THOR!

THERE ISN'T TIME!

INTO THE TRUCK-- FAST! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

WE SHOULD REMEMBER --WHY THEY CALL HER-- PRINCESS PYTHON!

BUT NOW LET US *SPARE* OUR CRESTFALLEN HERO THE ADDED INDIGNITY OF *OBSERVING* HIS *IGNOBLE* IMPRISONMENT, BY TURNING OUR ATTENTION TO *ANOTHER* PART OF THE VAST, UNENDING COSMOS, WHERE WE FIND--STILL EXILED IN A TIMELESS *LIMBO*--THE MOST POWERFUL, MOST DEADLY, MOST DANGEROUS ARCH-FIEND THE UNIVERSE HAS EVER SPAWNED--THE BALEFUL, BROODING GOD OF EVIL--THE HATE-FILLED HALF-BROTHER OF *THOR*, WHOM MEN CALL--*LOKI*--!!!



THOUGH MY VENGEFUL *FATHER* HATH SENTENCED ME HERE FOR TIME WITHOUT *LIMIT*--

STILL DO I KNOW THAT MY EXILE WILL NOT BE *ETERNAL*--FOR SUCH IS NOT THE WAY OF *ODIN*!

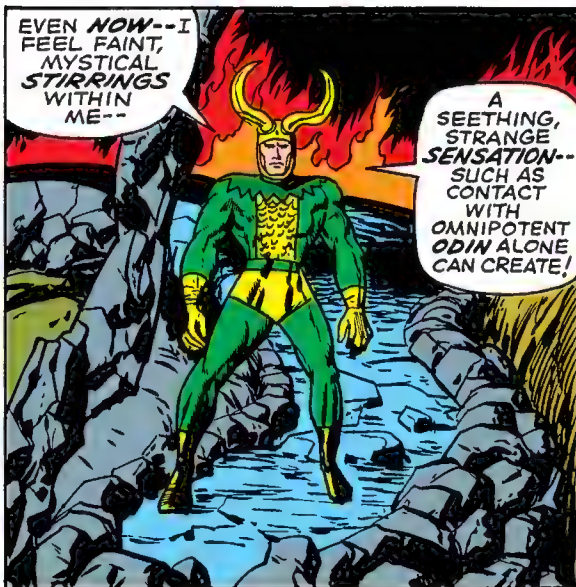
SOONER OR LATER SHALL *LOKI* BE LIBERATED--

AND, TILL THAT MOMENT, I SHALL *WAIT*--AND *PLAN*--

AND AGAIN I SWEAR--BY THE *EVIL* THAT DOTH SUSTAIN ME--

WHEN *FREEDOM* COMES TO *LOKI*--THEN SHALL EVERLASTING *DEFEAT* COME TO THE ACCURSED *THOR*!

FOR TIME, AS OTHERS KNOW IT, HAS NO MEANING TO A TRUE-BORN *IMMORTAL*!



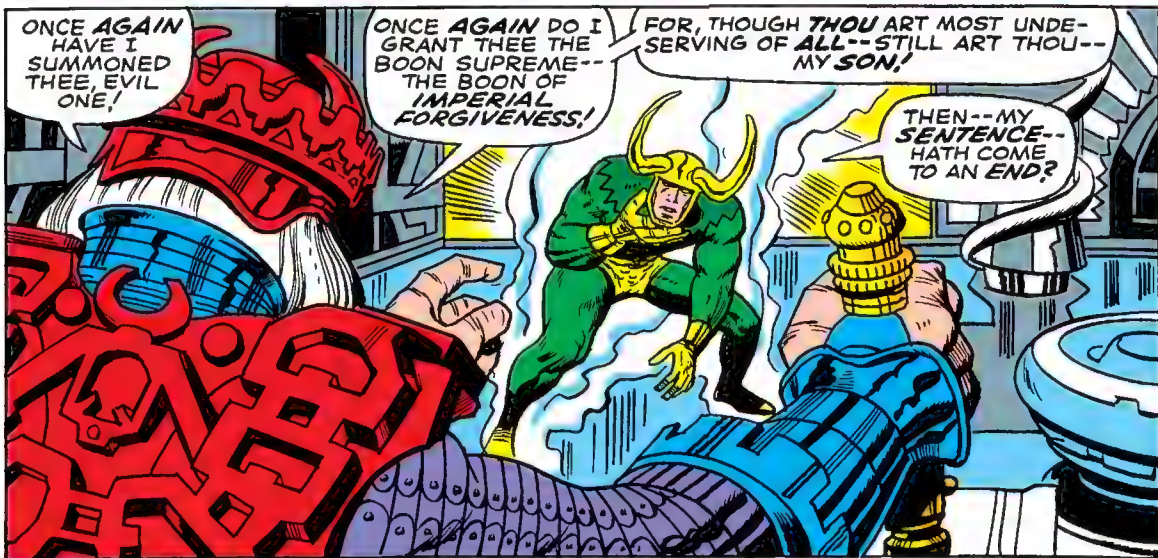
EVEN *NOW*--I
FEEL FAINT,
MYSTICAL
STIRRINGS
WITHIN
ME--

A
SEETHING,
STRANGE
SENSATION--
SUCH AS
CONTACT
WITH
OMNIPOTENT
ODIN ALONE
CAN CREATE!



THERE
CAN BE
NO
DOUBT--

MY
TIME--
AT
LAST--
IS
COME!



ONCE AGAIN
HAVE I
SUMMONED
THEE, EVIL
ONE!

ONCE AGAIN DO I
GRANT THEE THE
BOON SUPREME--
THE BOON OF
IMPERIAL
FORGIVENESS!

FOR, THOUGH *THOU* ART MOST UNDER-
SERVING OF *ALL*--STILL ART *THOU*--
MY SON!

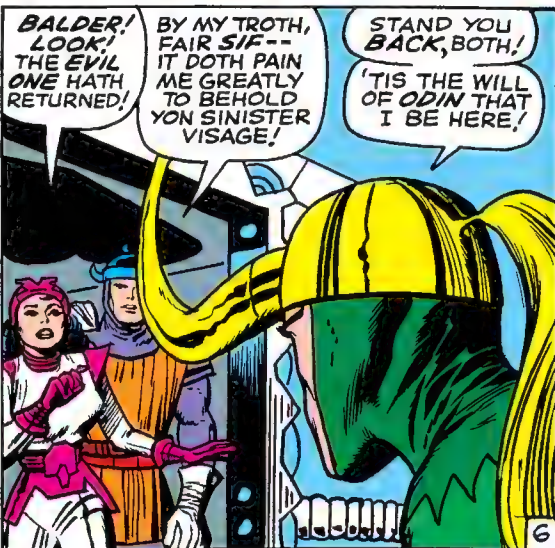
THEN--MY
SENTENCE--
HATH COME
TO AN END?



ONLY SO LONG AS
THOU COMMIT NO
FURTHER ACT OF
INFAMY!

BUT--IF *THOU* SHOULDST
AGAIN--INCUR MINE
REGAL
WRATH--! NAY, FATHER--
NAY!

NEVER
AGAIN WILT
THOU HAVE
CAUSE FOR
IMPERIAL
IRE!



BALDER!
LOOK!
THE EVIL
ONE HATH
RETURNED!

BY MY TROTH,
FAIR *SIF*--
IT DOTH PAIN
ME GREATLY
TO BEHOLD
YON SINISTER
VISAGE!

STAND YOU
BACK, BOTH!
'TIS THE WILL
OF ODIN THAT
I BE HERE!



GOOD SIRE--
WHAT
ABYSMAL
MOCKERY
IS THIS??

MUST THE GALLANT
THOR REMAIN IN DIS-
FAVOR--WHILST LOKI
BE FREE TO PERPETRATE
NEW EVIL???

LET **GALDER** DEAL WITH
LOKI, SIRE, I WOULD
FACE ANY DANGER--
TO AID THE GOD OF
THUNDER!

BE SILENT,
ALL!!

THINK YOU
THE WILL OF
ODIN MAY BE
QUESTIONED??
THINK YOU
'TIS WITHOUT
REASON I
AM CALLED
OMNIPOTENT??



BY **SUCH** AN ACT
DIDST MINE OTHER
SON PROVOKE MY
ROYAL ANGER!!

NONE MAY
QUESTION THE
THE TRUE AND
UTTERED WORD!
NONE MAY
CHALLENGE THE
WILL OF ODIN!!

I
HAVE
SPOKEN!!

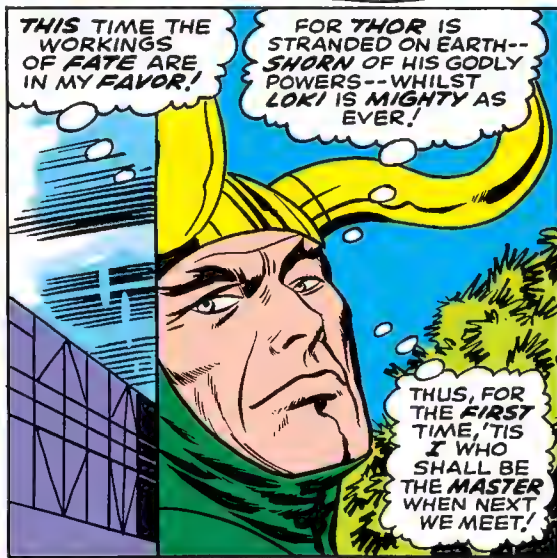
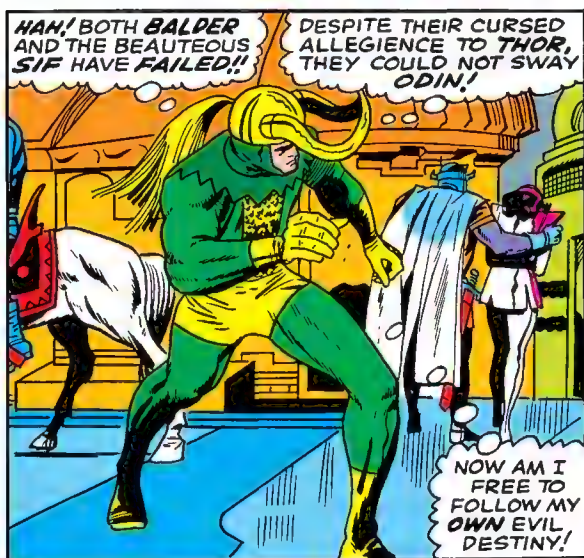


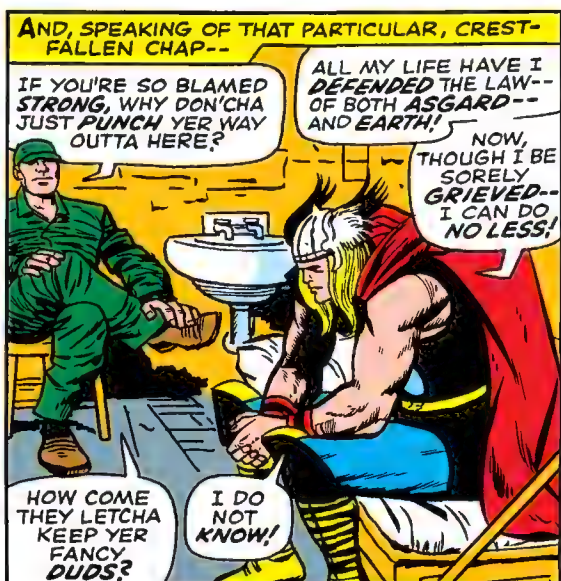
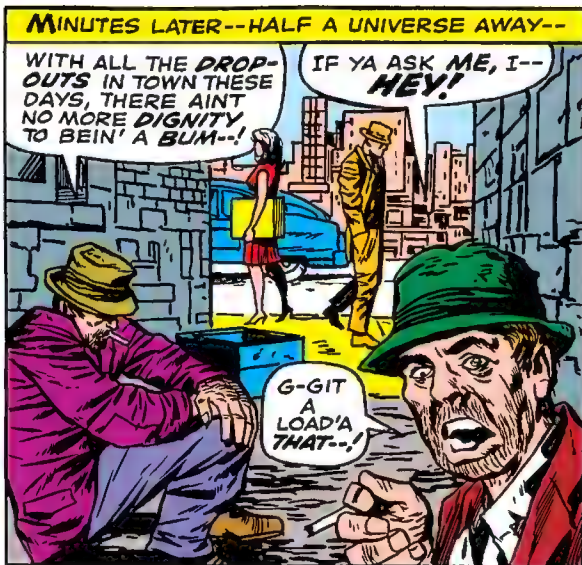
CONSIDER THOU THE PLIGHT OF **THOR**--OF
HIM WHO IS FLESH OF MY FLESH--HEART
OF MY HEART!

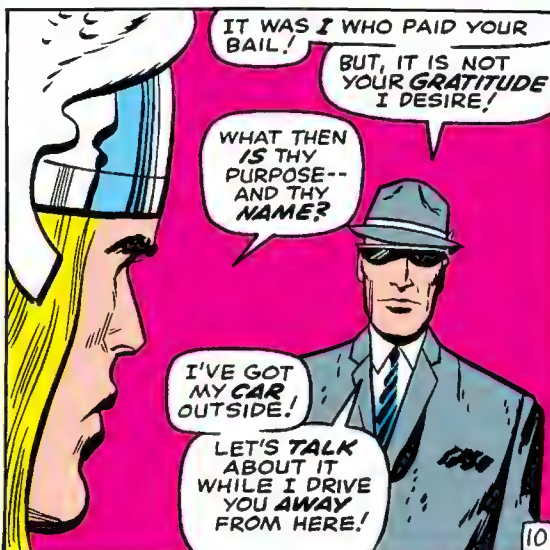
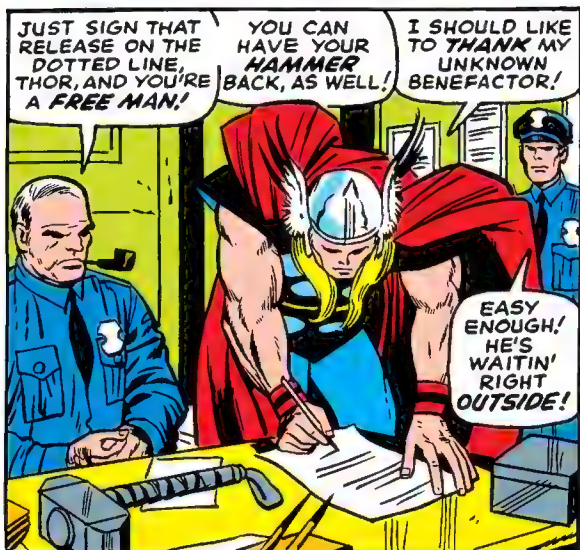
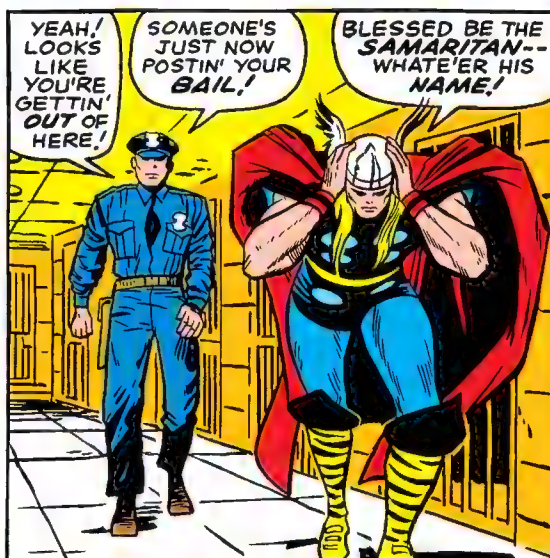
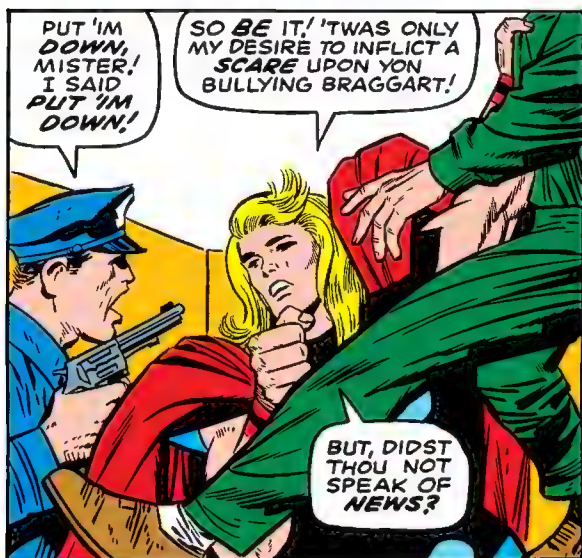
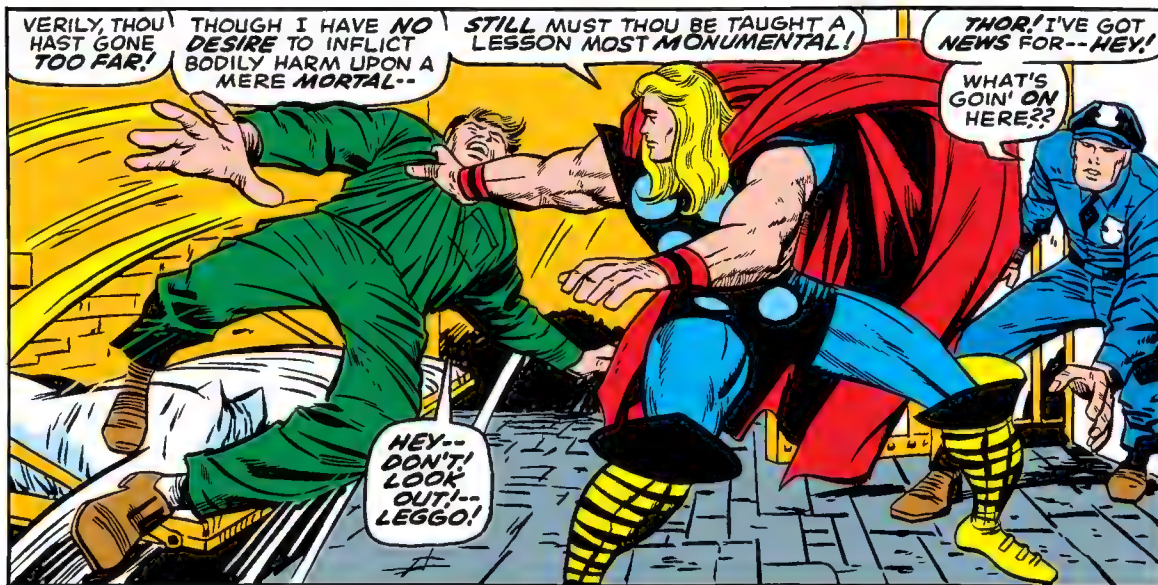
THOUGH THE **LOVE** I BEAR
HIM DOTHS SURPASS MORTAL
KEN--HE HATH DARED DEFY
ME!!

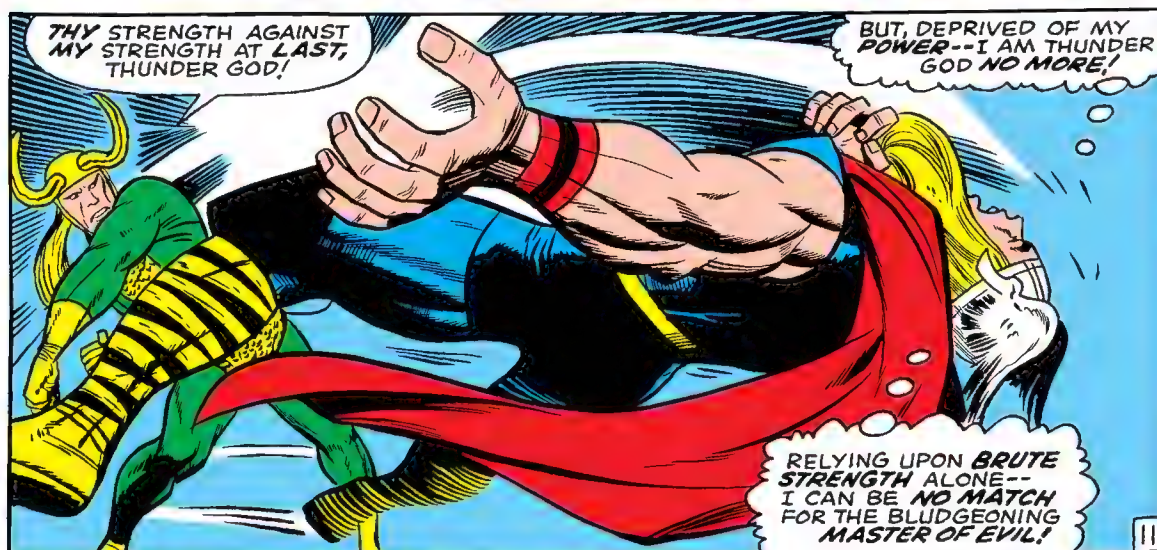
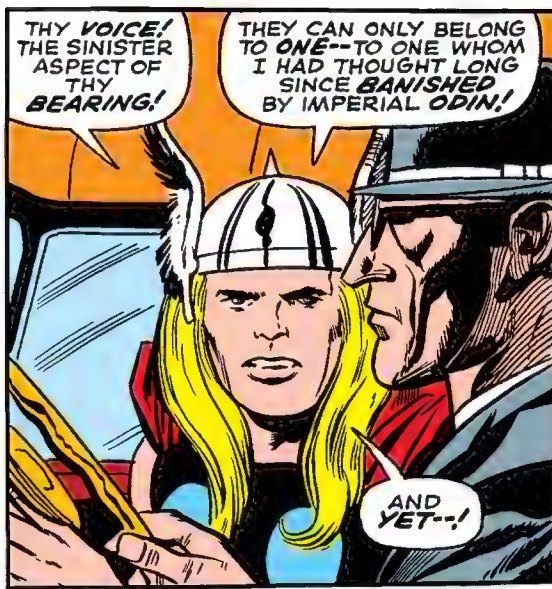
THUS HAVE I
STRIPPED HIM
OF HIS GODLY
POWER--THUS
MUST HE BE
ABANDONED TO
HIS IGNOBLE
FATE!!

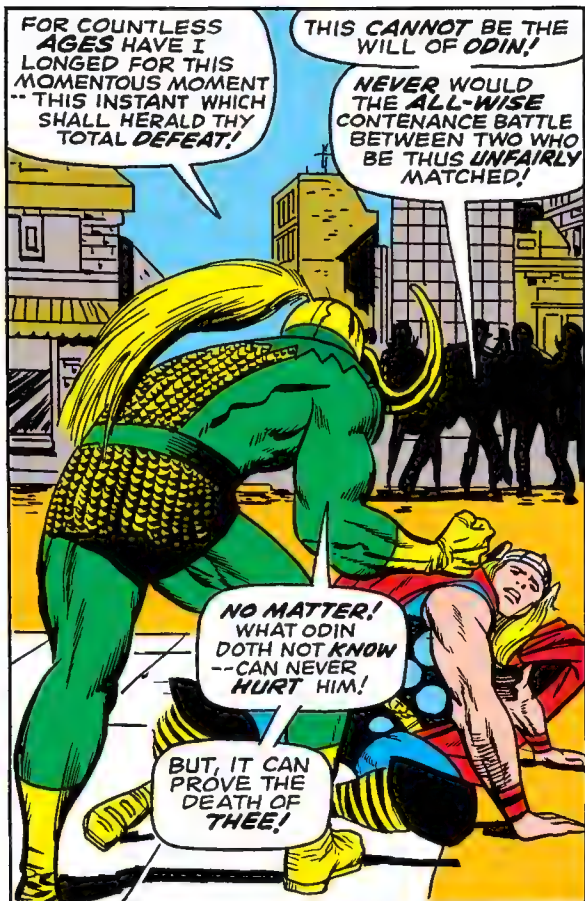
AND
NOW--
I SHALL
HEAR
NO MORE!

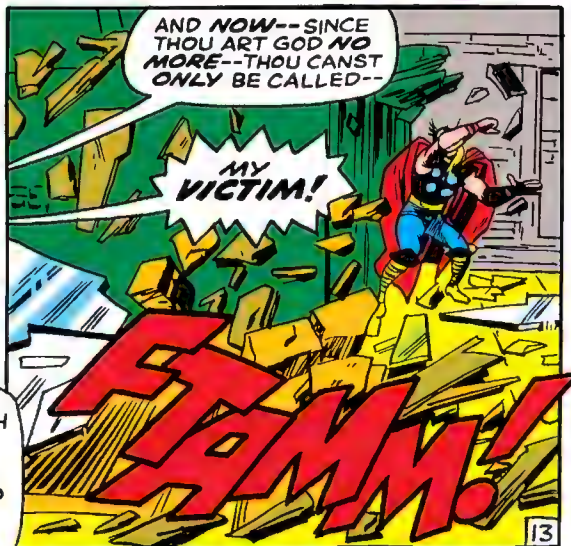
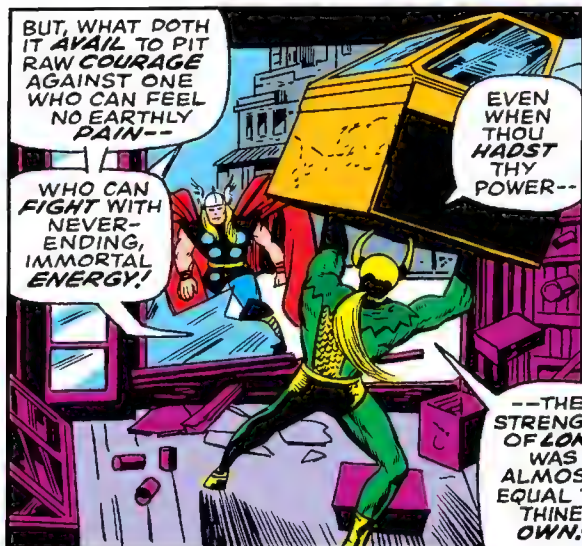
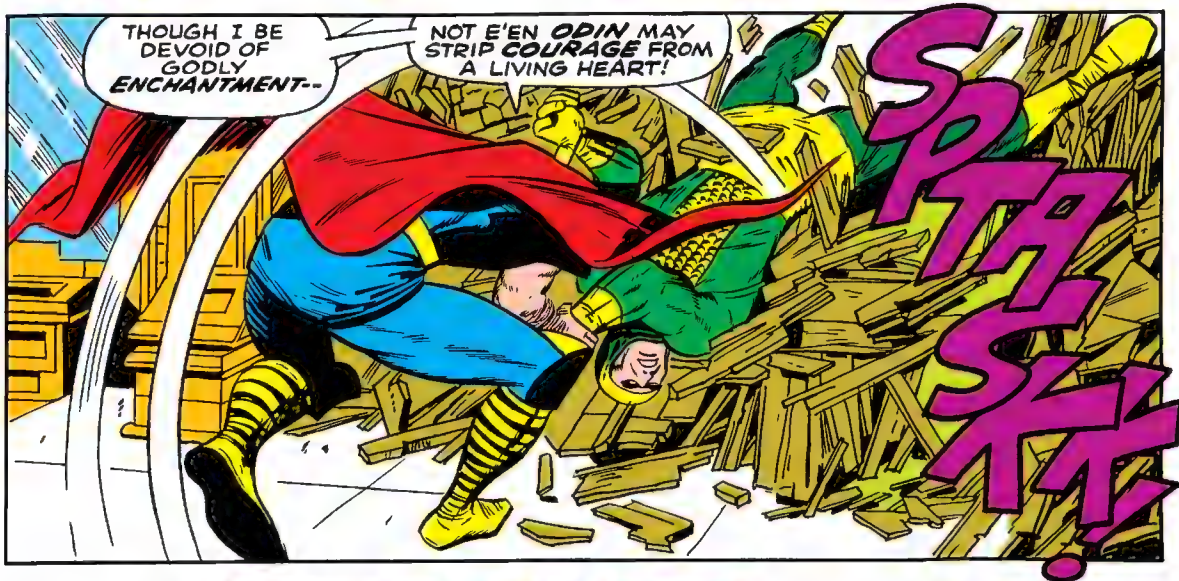
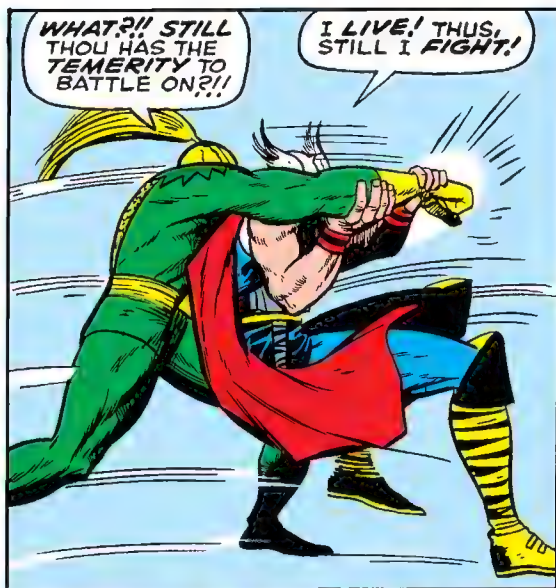
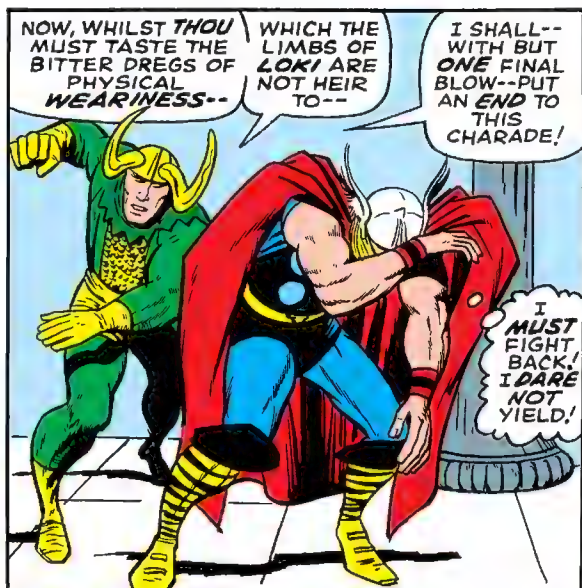


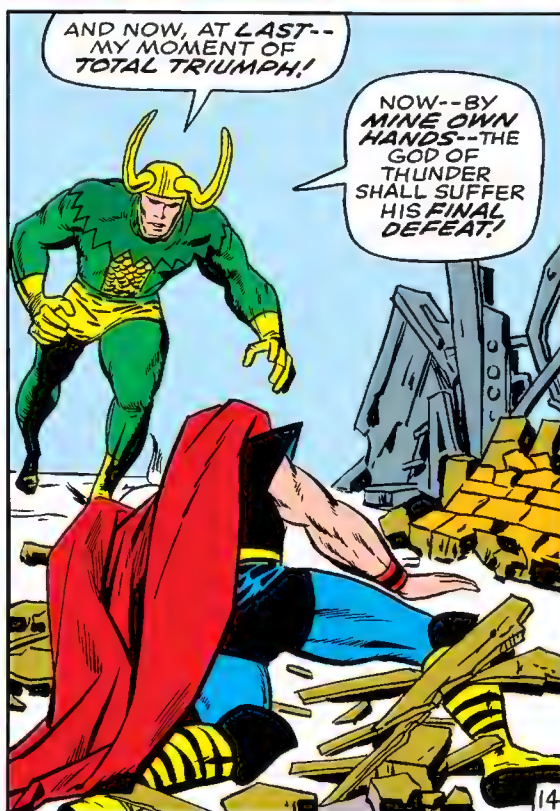
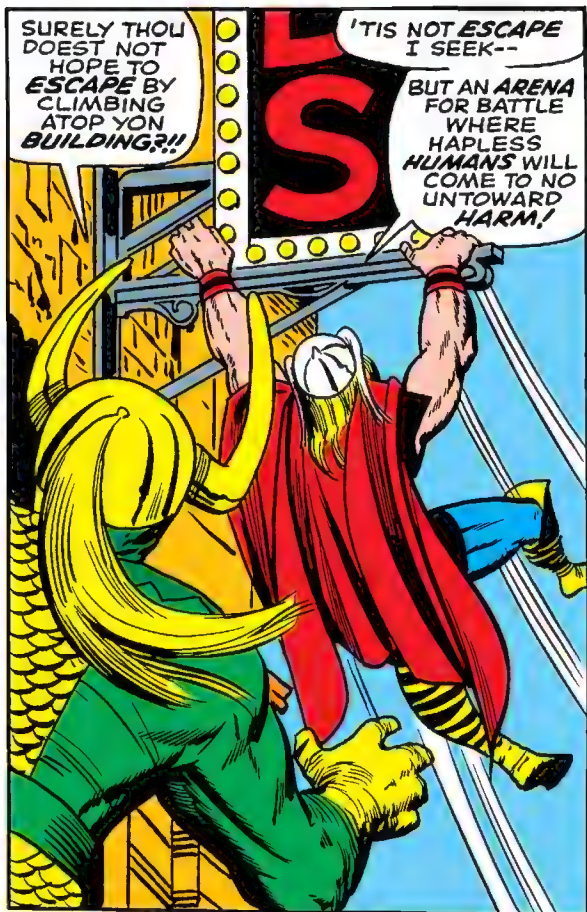


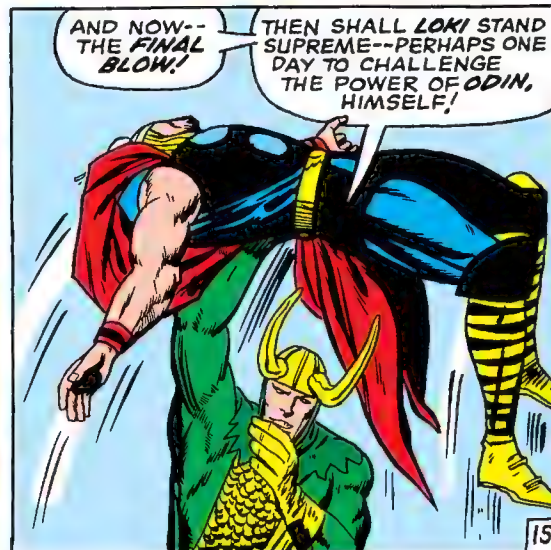
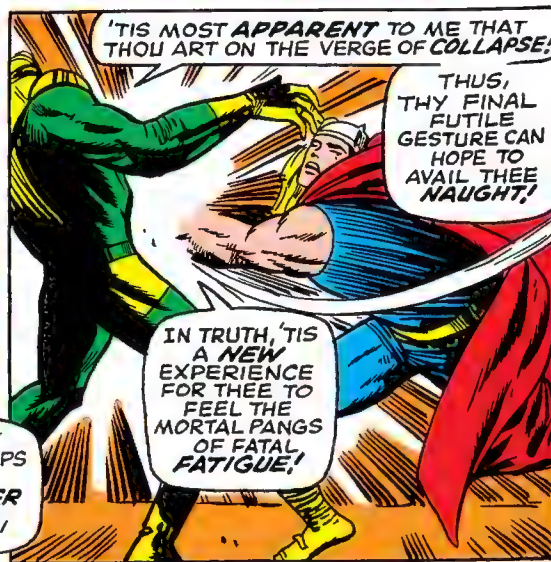
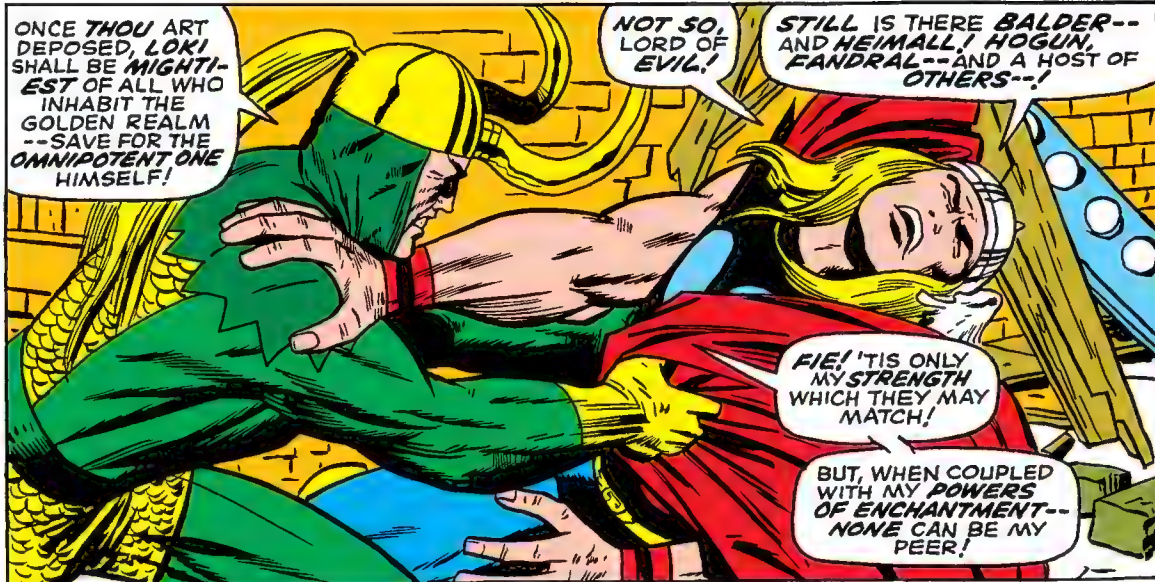














BUT THEN--AS THE FATE OF A UNIVERSE SEEMS TO TREMBLE IN THE BALANCE--

BEHIND ME!! A SUDDEN FLASH-- AN UNEARTHLY SOUND--!

MASTER OF EVIL-- MAKE THOU NO FURTHER MOVE!



THE GODDESS SIF--AND SNIVELLING BALDER!

HOW COME THEE HERE-- AGAINST THE EXPRESSED COMMAND OF ODIN??

WE HAVE DARED ODIN'S WRATH-- TO SAVE THE MIGHTY THOR!

HOLD, FAIR ONE!

LET BALDER SPEAK!

WHEN ODIN LEARNS WHAT THOU HAST DONE--!



AND LEARN HE SHALL--OF THE MURDEROUS TREACHERY OF LOKI, AS WELL!

NEVER! NOT E'EN THE BOTH OF YOU POSSESS POWER ENOW TO DEFY MY WILL!

ONLY DEATH WILL STOP US!

STAND YOU BACK-- AS BALDER COMMANDS!



WHILE, WITHIN THE GOLDEN REALM OF ASGARD--

WHAT MONUMENTAL KINGLY DEFIANCE IS THIS??!

FIRST THOR-- THEN LOKI--

NOW--I BEHOLD BALDER-- AND FAIR SIF!



DISOBEDIENCE BREEDS ANARCHY--YET, THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO DISOBEY!

NO MATTER THEIR MOTIVES--MY PUNISHMENT MUST BE SWIFT--AND TERRIBLE!



AND, BY THE POWER OF YON BOLT I HURL-- SO SHALL IT BE!

NEXT: LET THERE BE CHAOS!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

12¢
IND.

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JAN

MCG

THE
MIGHTY

THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

TM



INTRODUCING! THE POUNDING POWER OF
THE WRECKER!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

LET
THERE
BE...

CHAOS!

MAD WITH RAGE, THE ALL-MIGHTY ODIN
HURLS A REGAL BOLT, FROM FAR-OFF
ASGARD TO THE PLANET EARTH... A
BOLT WHICH STRIKES THE FOUR FIGHTING
IMMORTALS UPON THE PLANET BELOW..!

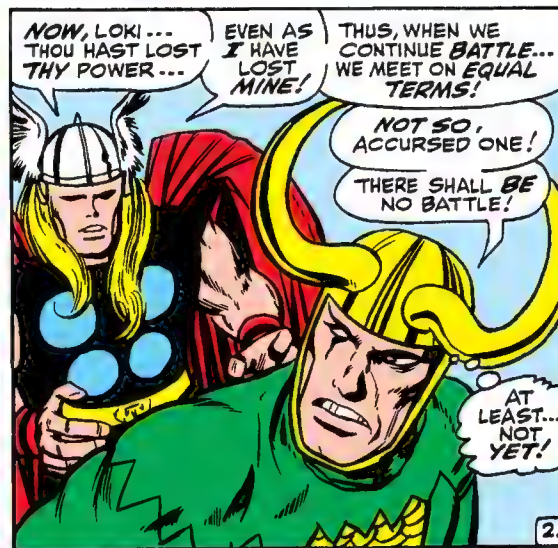
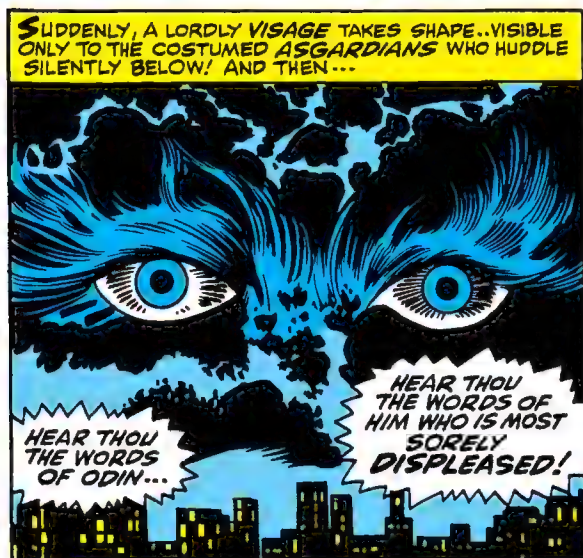
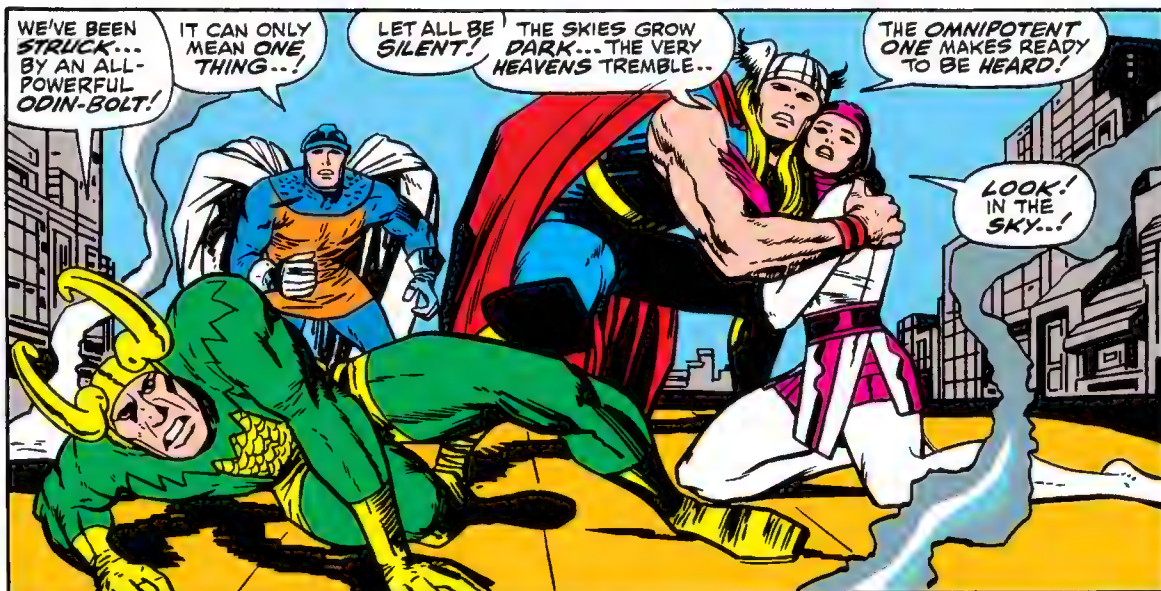
AND SO
THE
BEWITCHMENT
BEGINS...

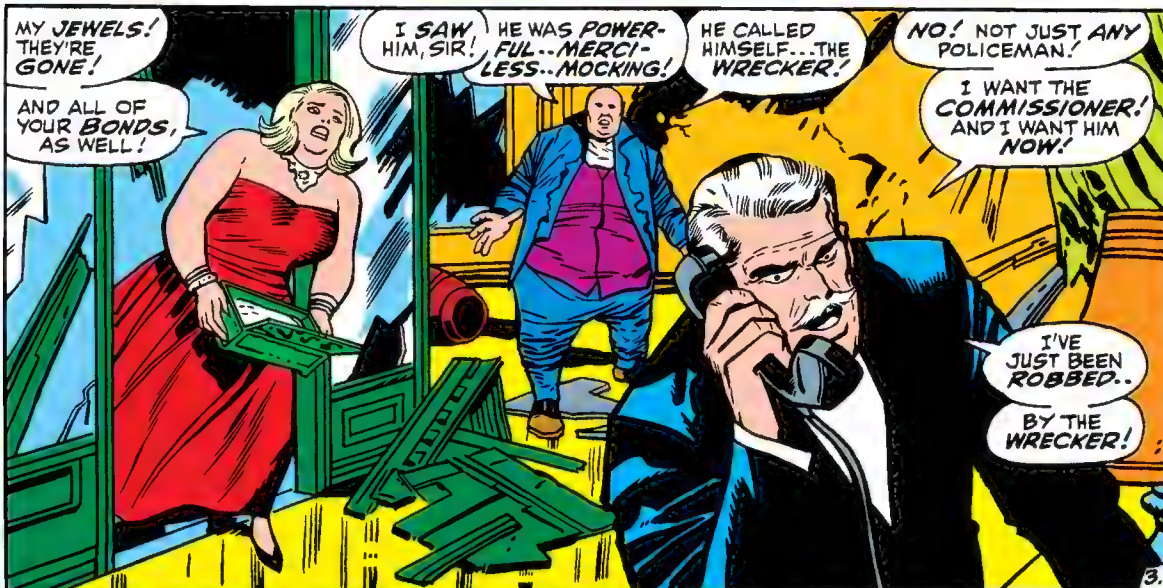
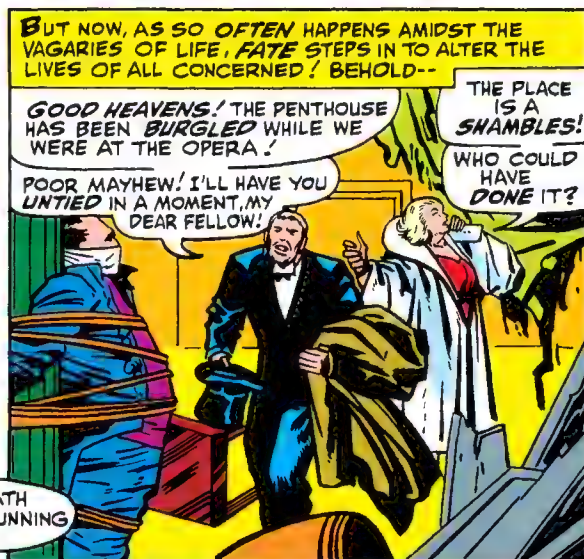
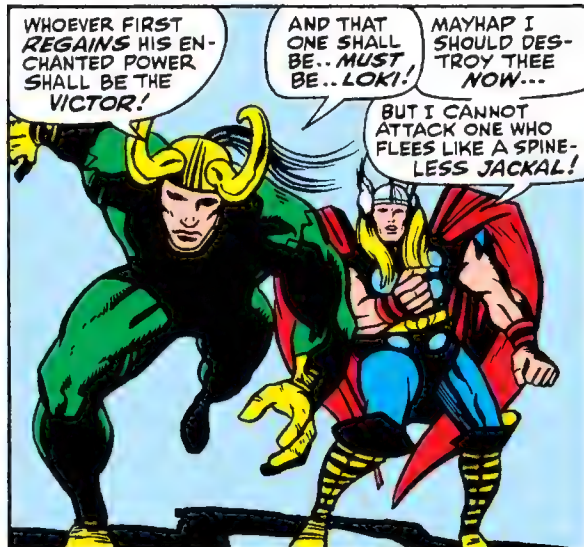
IS THERE
NO LIMIT TO
THE THRILLS SO
LAVISHLY BESTOWED
UPON US BY...

STAN JACK
(THE MAN) AND (KING)
LEE AND KIRBY

OR TO THE AWESOME
ASSISTANCE OF
VINCE COLLETTA,
INKER, AND
SAM ROSEN,
LETTERER

WARNING! PROLONGED
READING OF THIS PUBLICATION
MAY BE INJURIOUS TO OUR
COMPETITORS!







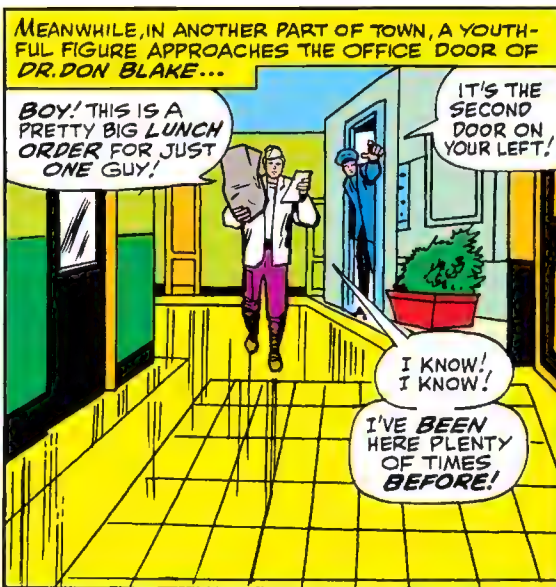


THEY'RE GONE!

THEY MOVED SO FAST, I HADDA DROP ALL THE LOOT I WAS CARRYING!

BUT, AT LEAST THE WRECKER GOT AWAY... SCOT FREE!

NOW, ALL I GOTTA DO IS FIND ANOTHER VICTIM...

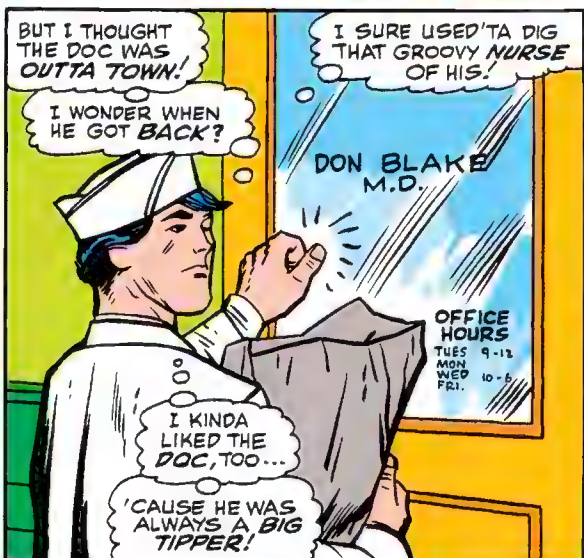


BOY! THIS IS A PRETTY BIG LUNCH ORDER FOR JUST ONE GUY!

IT'S THE SECOND DOOR ON YOUR LEFT!

I KNOW! I KNOW!

I'VE BEEN HERE PLENTY OF TIMES BEFORE!



BUT I THOUGHT THE DOC WAS OUTTA TOWN!

I WONDER WHEN HE GOT BACK?

I SURE USED'TA DIG THAT GROOVY NURSE OF HIS!

DON BLAKE M.D.

OFFICE HOURS
TUES 9-12
MON, WED 10-6
FRI.

I KINDA LIKED THE DOC, TOO...

'CAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS A BIG TIPPER!



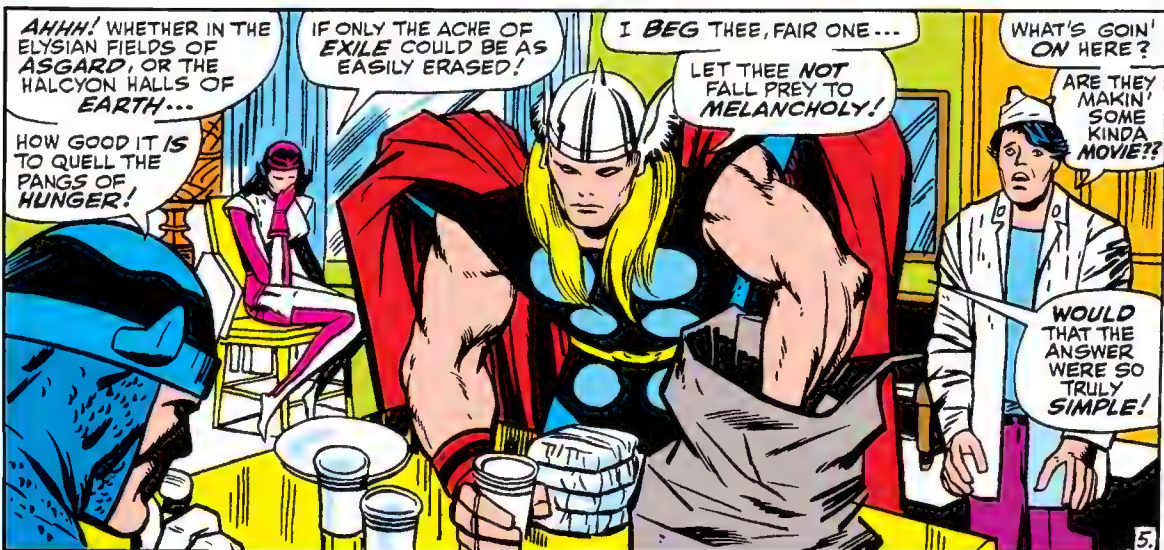
AH! 'TIS A STRIPLING WHO DOTH BRING OUR VIANDS!

WHA...?!!

I BID THEE ENTER, LAD!

BE NOT ALARMED!

WE MEAN THEE NO HARM!



AHHH! WHETHER IN THE ELYSIAN FIELDS OF ASGARD, OR THE HALCYON HALLS OF EARTH...

HOW GOOD IT IS TO QUELL THE PANGS OF HUNGER!

IF ONLY THE ACHE OF EXILE COULD BE AS EASILY ERASED!

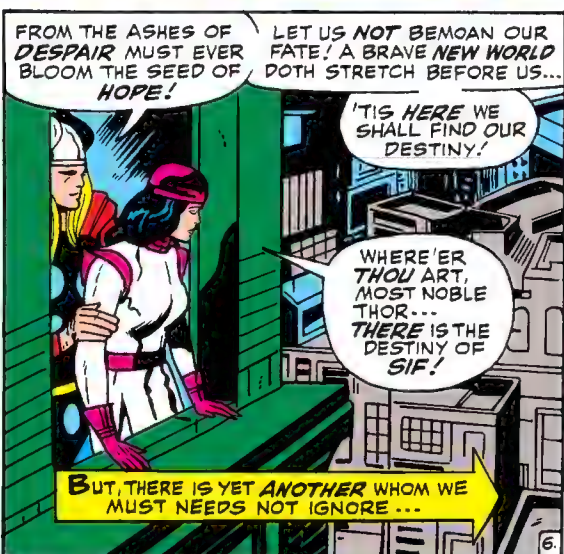
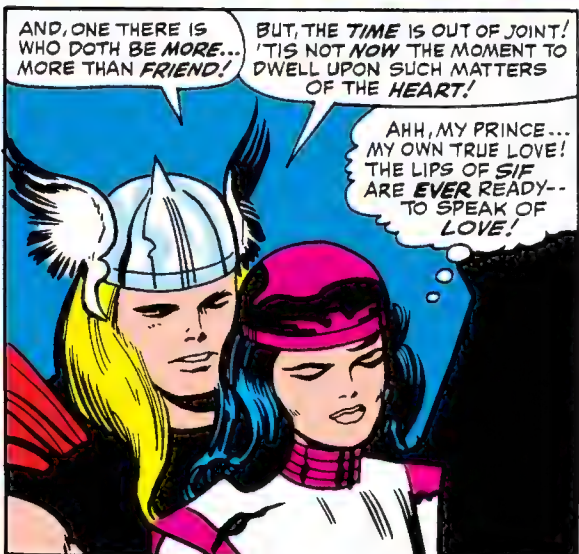
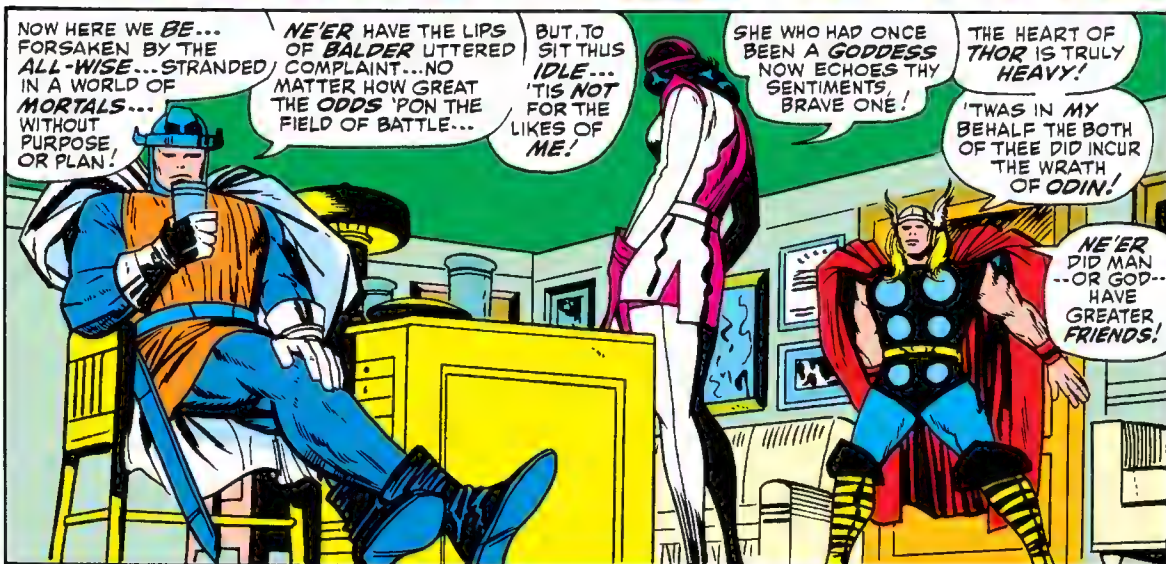
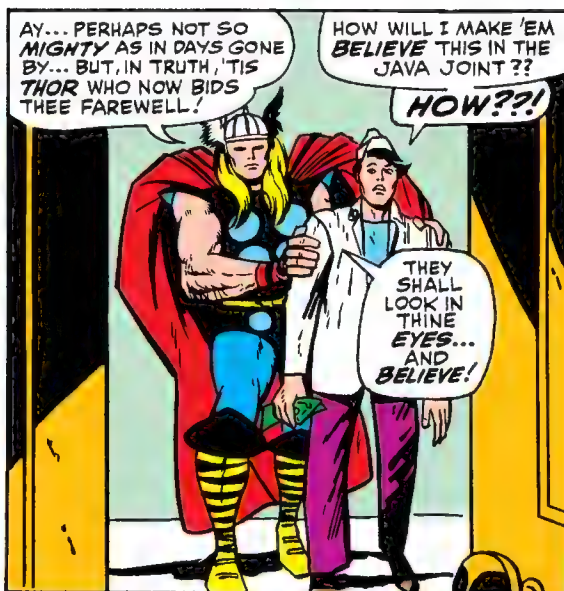
I BEG THEE, FAIR ONE...

LET THEE NOT FALL PREY TO MELANCHOLY!

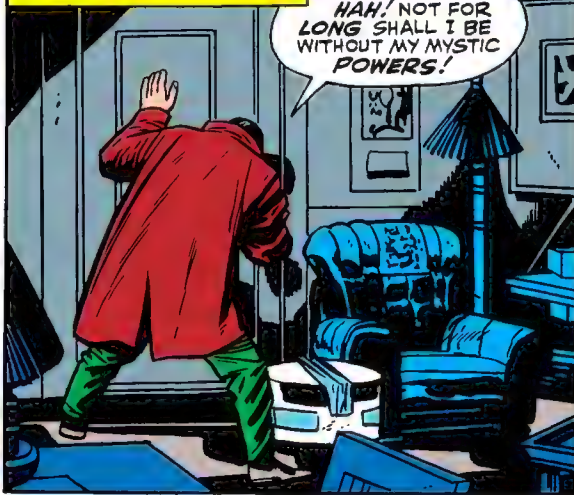
WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?

ARE THEY MAKIN' SOME KINDA MOVIE??

WOULD THAT THE ANSWER WERE SO TRULY SIMPLE!



...AND, WE FIND HIM NOW... LURKING WITHIN A GLOOMY RENTED ROOM...



HAH! NOT FOR LONG SHALL I BE WITHOUT MY MYSTIC POWERS!

ALL I NEED DO IS SUMMON MY SISTER IN EVIL...

FOR MANY ARE THE FAVORS OWED LOKI BY THE SUPREME SINISTER NORN QUEEN!

MANY TIMES HAS SHE DARED... WITH LOKI... TO DEFEY THE WILL OF ODIN!



THOUGH HER POWER IS NOT SO GREAT AS HIS...

IT WILL ENABLE ME TO BE MANY TIMES THE SUPERIOR OF THOR, AND OF THOSE WHO DO BEFRIEND HIM!

BUT HOLD!

WHAT DO I HEAR?

A SOUND... FROM OUTSIDE MY WINDOW!



FIE! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

SHALL THE DEADLY LOKI FALL PREY TO FEAR OF SHADOWS?!!

ENOUGH! LET ME RETURN TO MY MYSTIC TASK!



HEAR ME, QUEEN OF THE NORNS!

'TIS LOKI WHO SUMMONS THEE!

THOU MUST GRANT ME POWER... POWER ENOW TO VANQUISH ALL WHO OPPOSE MY WILL!



I DUNNO WHO HE IS... BUT WITH A COSTUME LIKE THAT HE MIGHTA JUST PULLED A JOB HIMSELF!

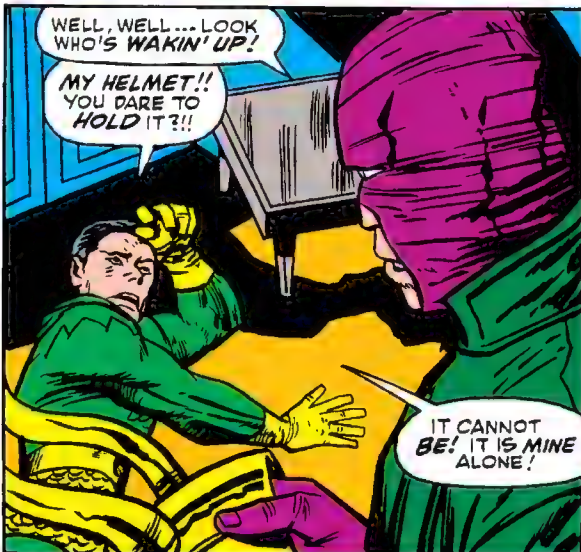
SO I'LL JUST SMASH MY WAY IN AND HIJACK HIS LOOT!

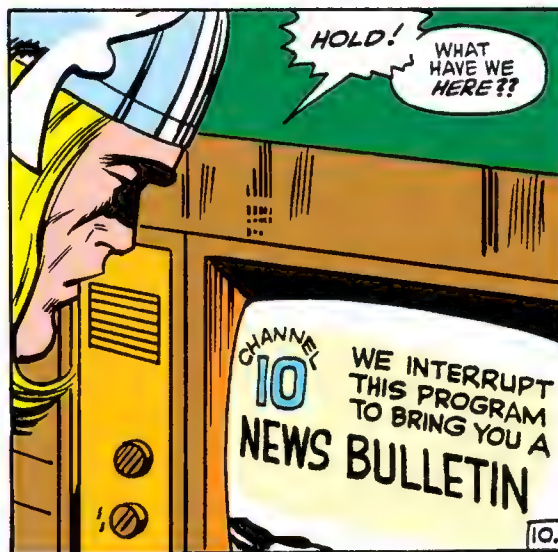
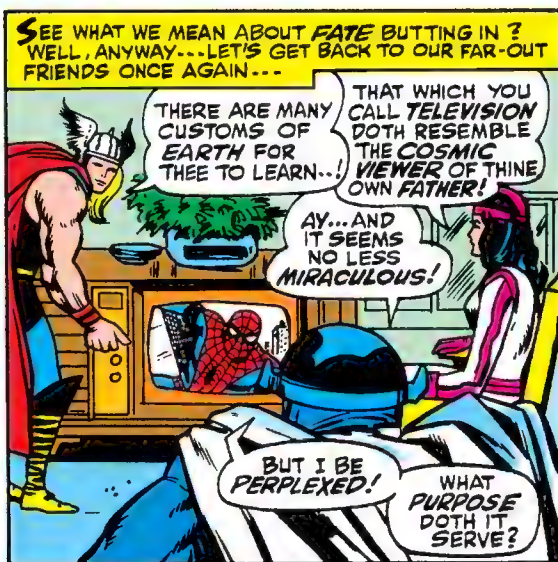
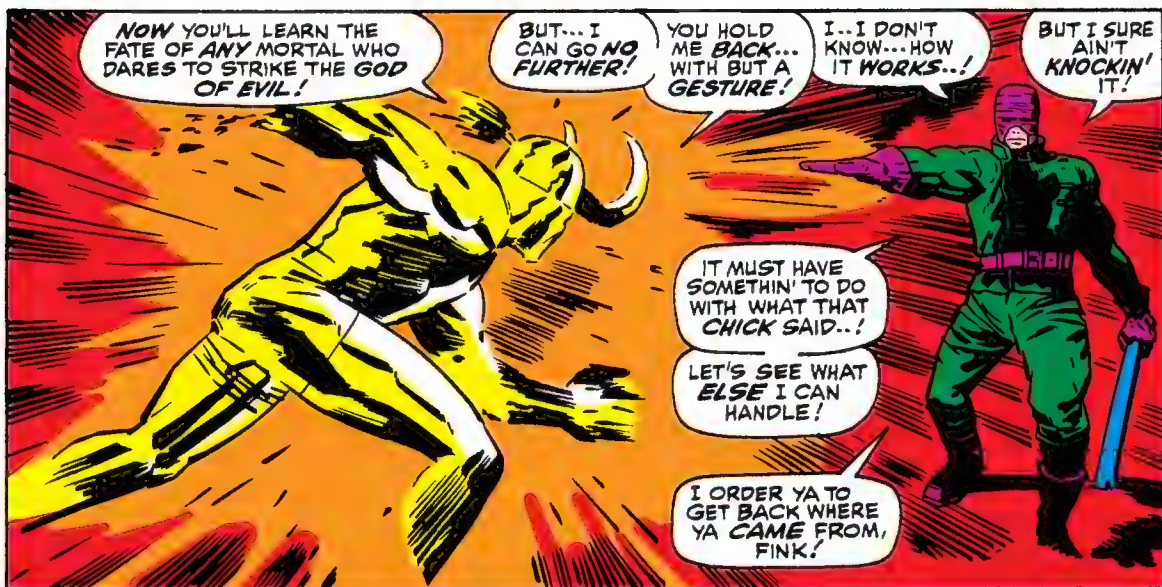
IT IS DONE! AND NOW...

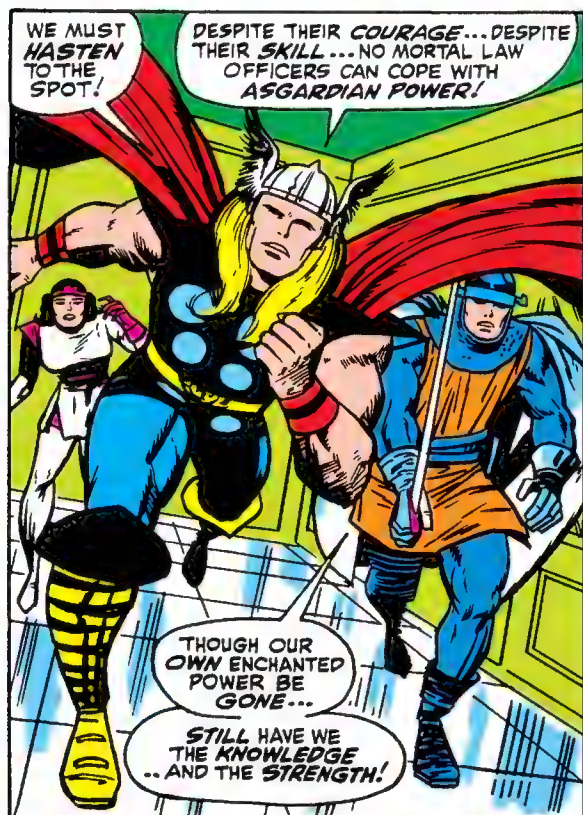
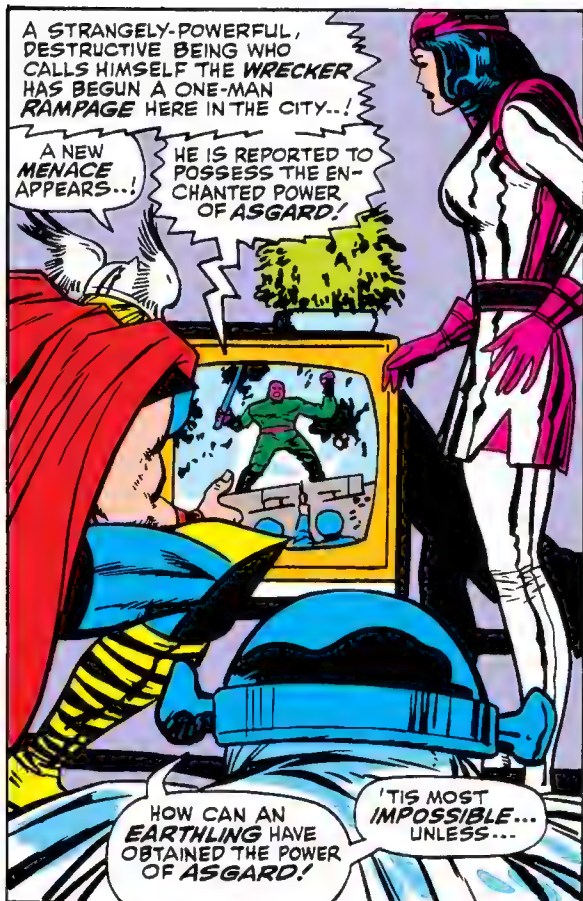
WHAT WAS THAT?

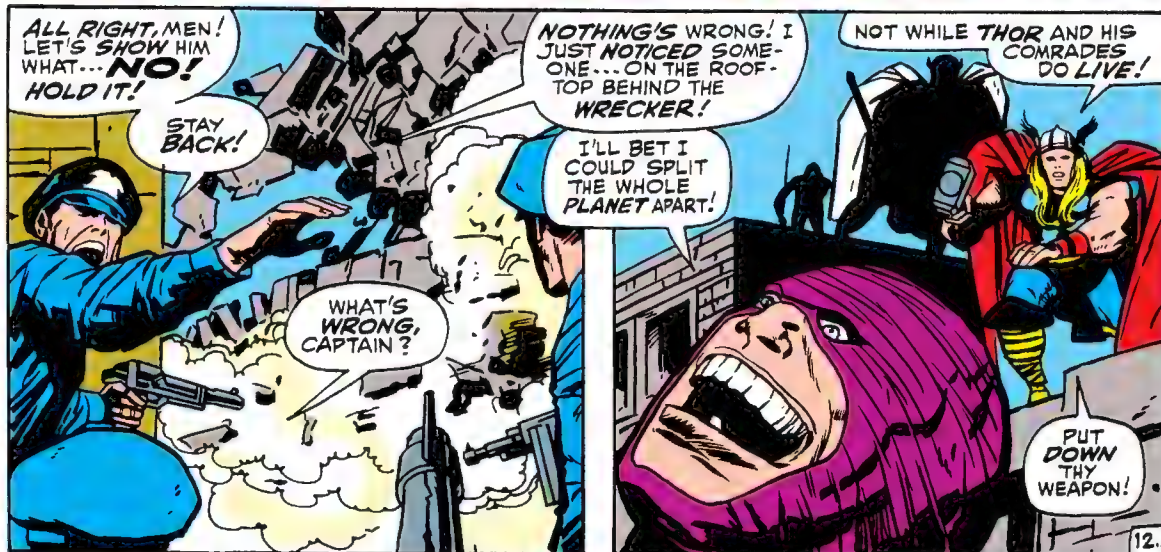
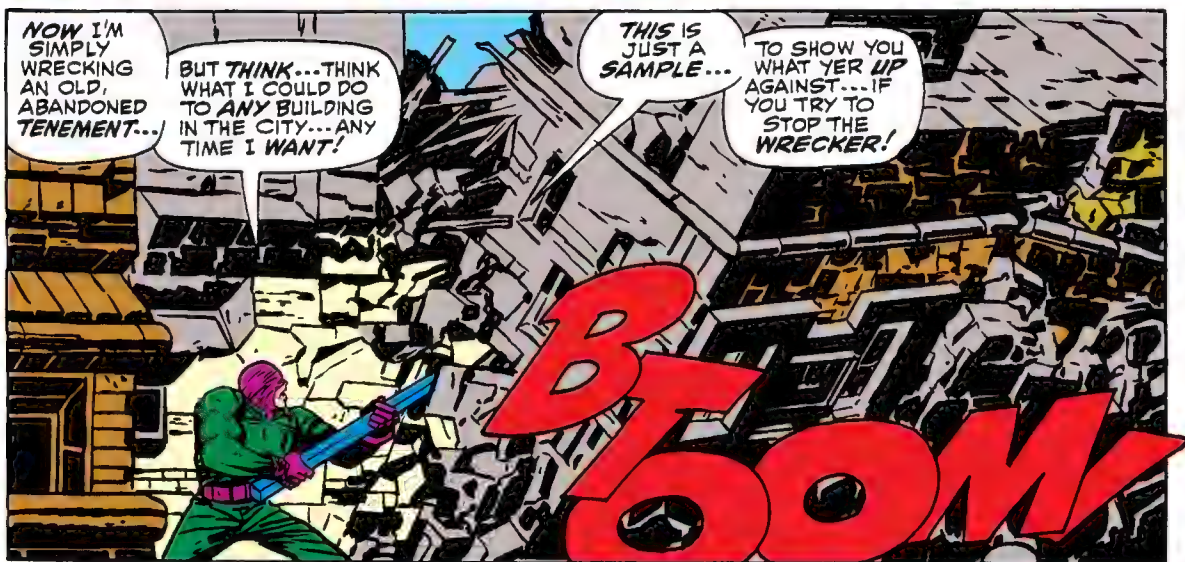


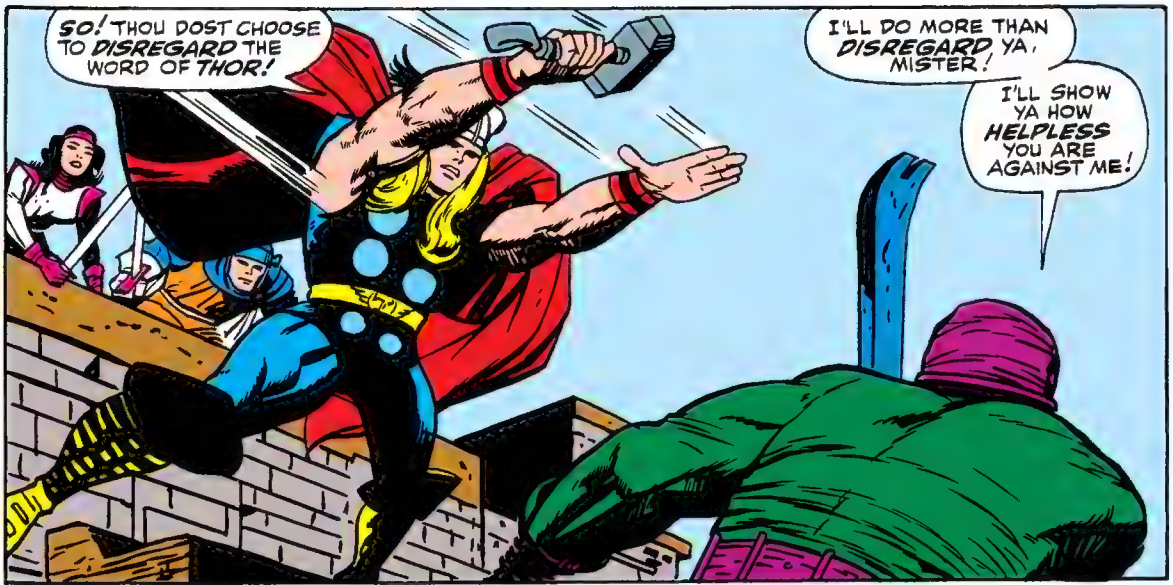




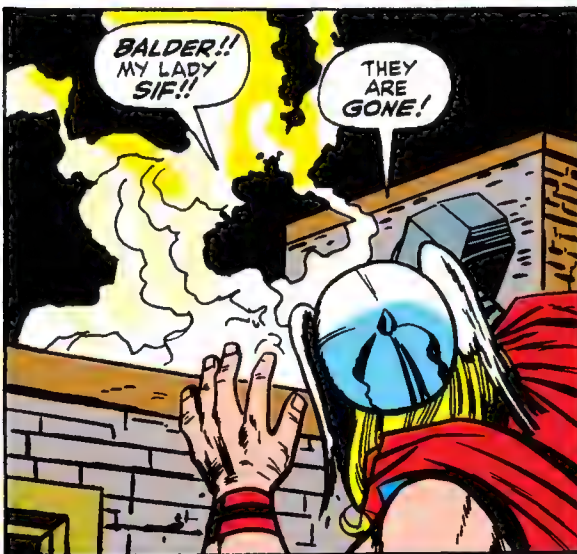
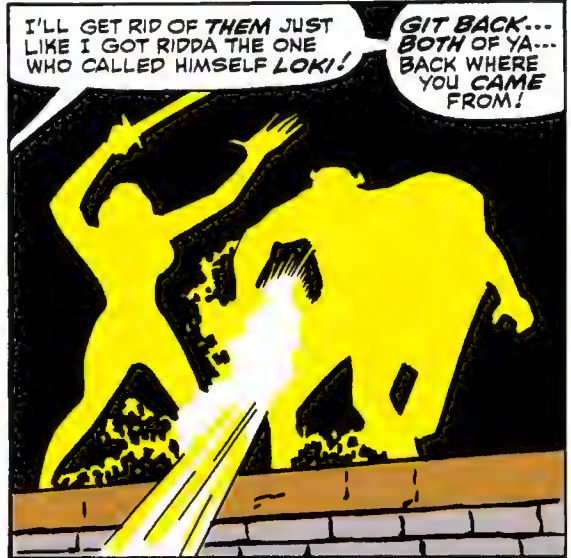
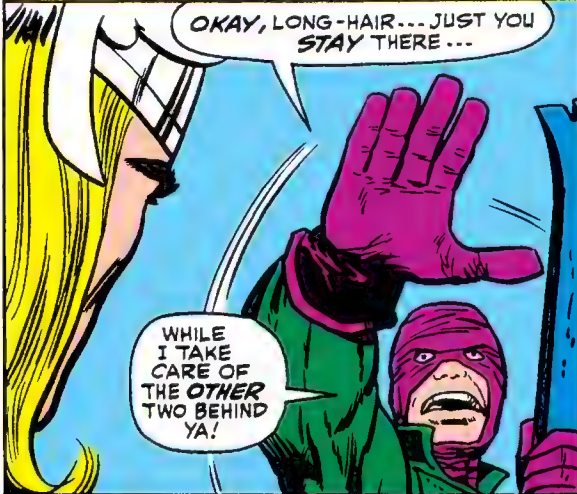








THEN, AT A GESTURE, THE **WRECKER** CAUSES MIGHTY THOR TO HOVER **MOTIONLESS** IN THE AIR...



AND NOW... I'LL LETCHA MOVE AGAIN!

I WANNA ENJOY WATCHING
YA WHEN YOU SEE THAT THERE'S
NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO TO
SAVE YOURSELF!

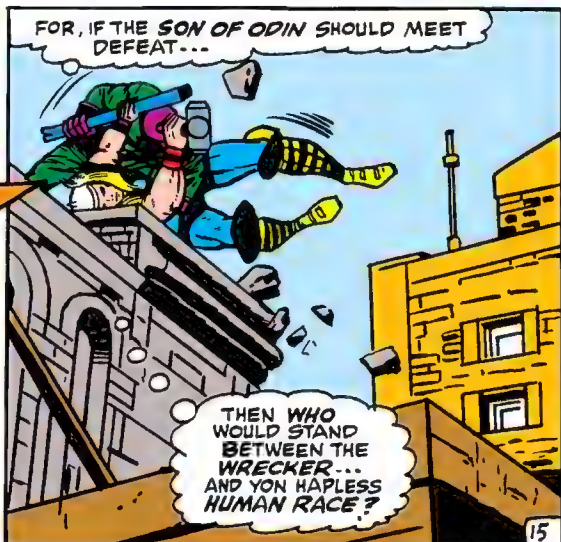
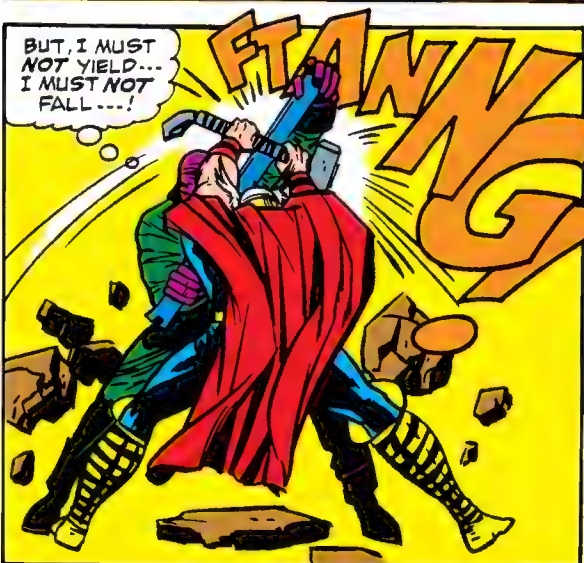
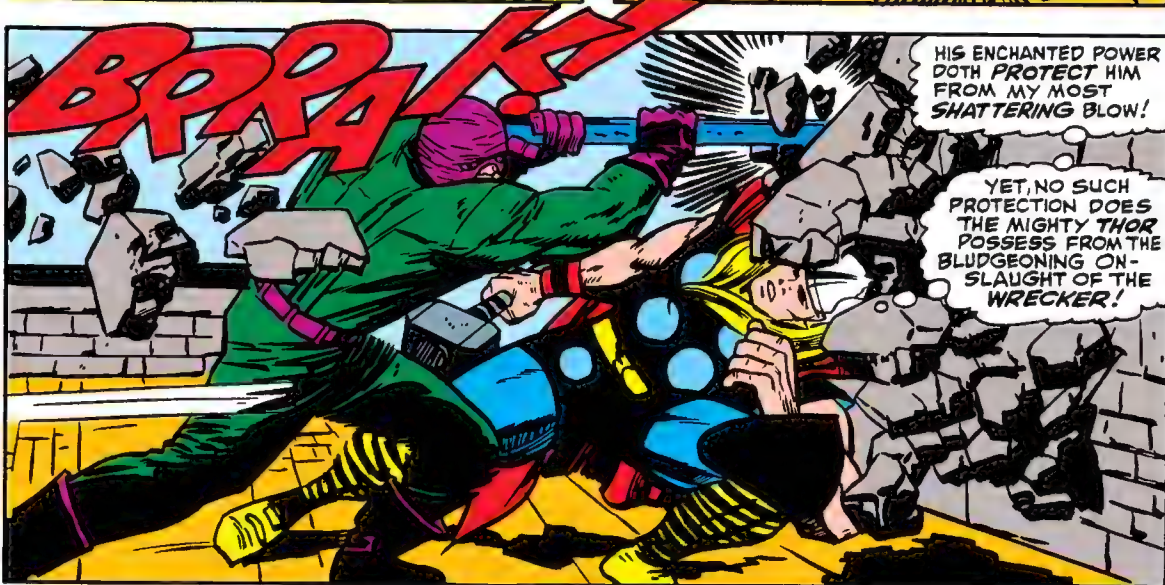
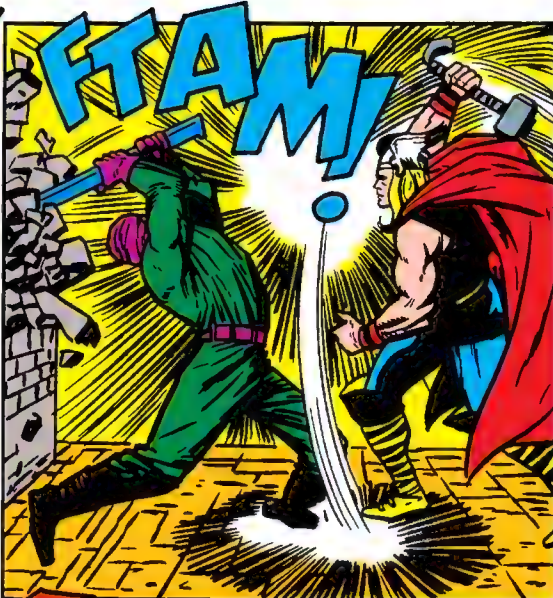
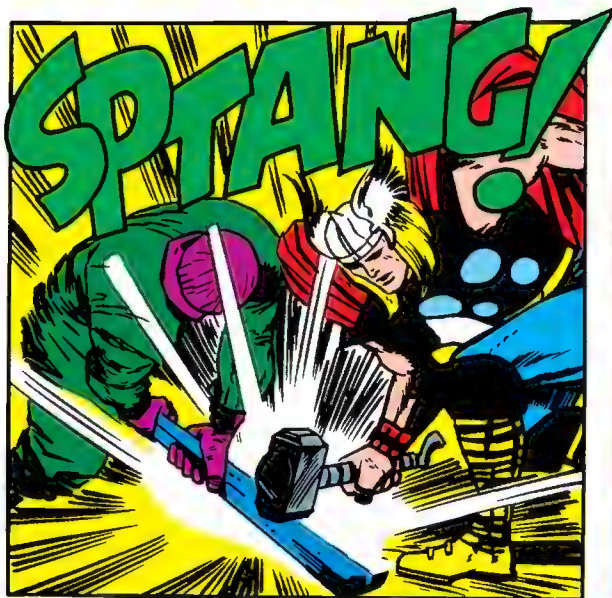
HIS CONFIDENCE WOULD
SEEM TO BE MOST
JUSTIFIED!

EVEN MIGHTY
THOR... POSSESSED
OF **STRENGTH**
IMMEASURABLE...
CAN BE NO MATCH
FOR ONE WITH THE
POWER OF **ENCHANT-**
MENT AT HIS COMMAND!

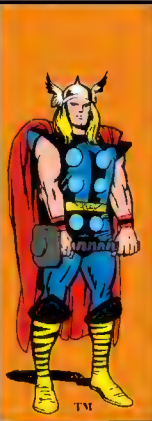
AND YET...
FIGHT HIM I
MUST!!

FOR, SO LONG
AS LIFE ENDURES...
LET **VALOR** BE THE
PROD... AND **HOPE**
THE SPUR!

AND SO... THE BATTLE
OF **TITANS**... A BATTLE
SUCH AS NO HUMAN EYES
HAVE E'ER BEHELD...
DOETH NOW **BEGIN**...







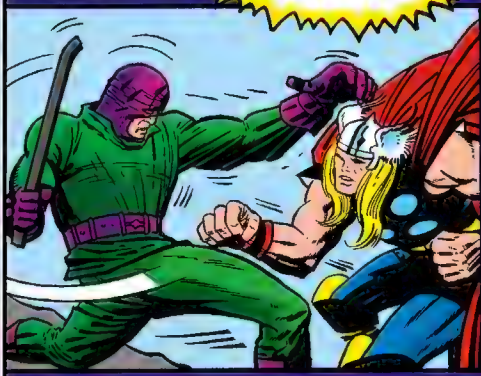
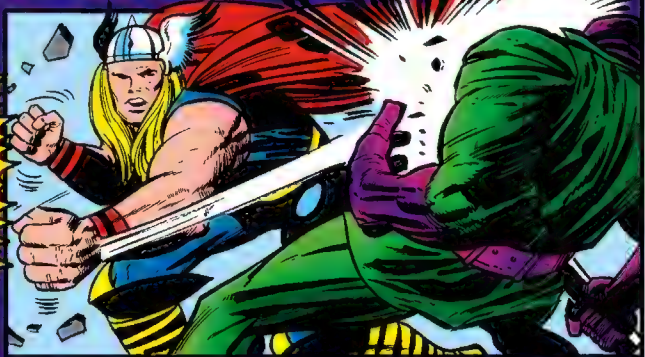
THE MIGHTY THOR

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BY THE
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CODE
AUTHORITY

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP
12¢ 149
IND. FEB

MCG

"WHEN
FALLS
A
HERO!"



THE MIGHTY THOR!

WHEN FALLS A HERO!

WITH ONLY HIS
NATURAL **STRENGTH**
TO SERVE HIM, MIGHTY
THOR IS DRIVEN BACK...
BACK... BACK... BY
THE POUNDING POWER OF
THE **WRECKER!**
THIS TIME IT IS THOR WHO
POSSESSES NO IMMORTAL
POWER... WHILST HIS
DEADLIEST ENEMY
DOES...!

HOW DOES IT
FEEL TO BE
HELPLESS,
THUNDER GOD?

HELPLESS AGAINST
THE **WRECKER...**
WHO GOT HIS **ENCHANTED**
POWER FROM **LOKI,**
HIMSELF!

THOUGH I
FACE MOST
AWESOME
ODDS...

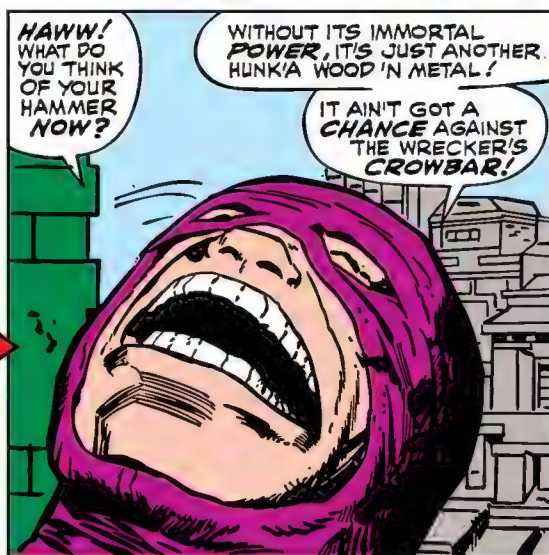
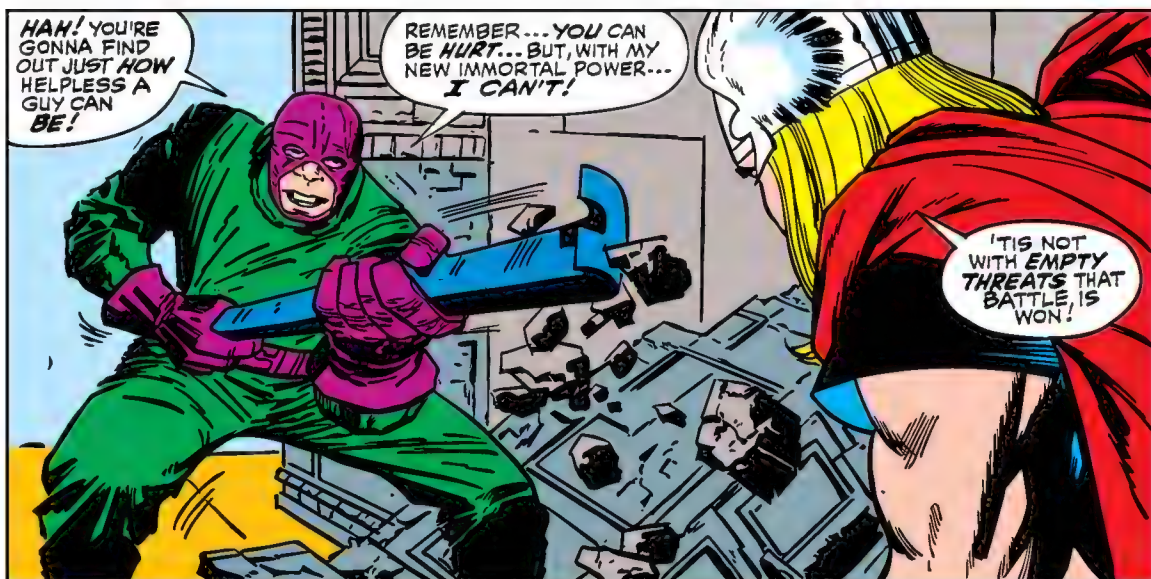
THOR IS
HELPLESS...
NEVER!

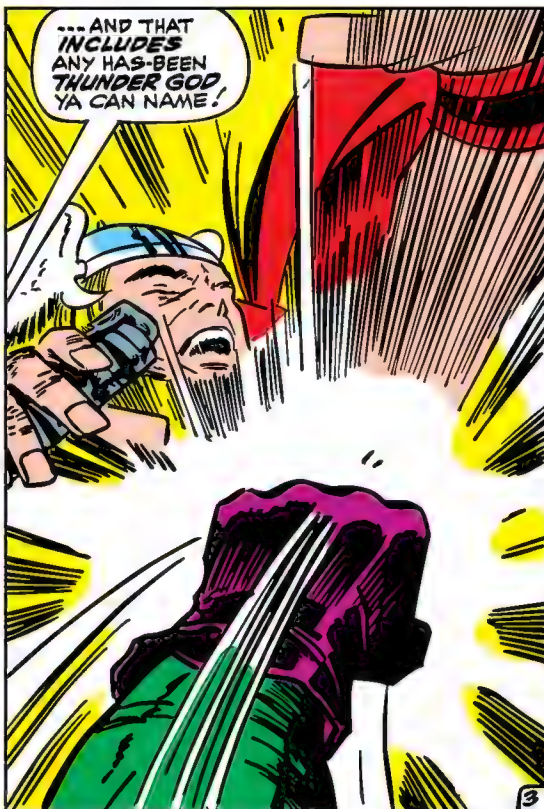
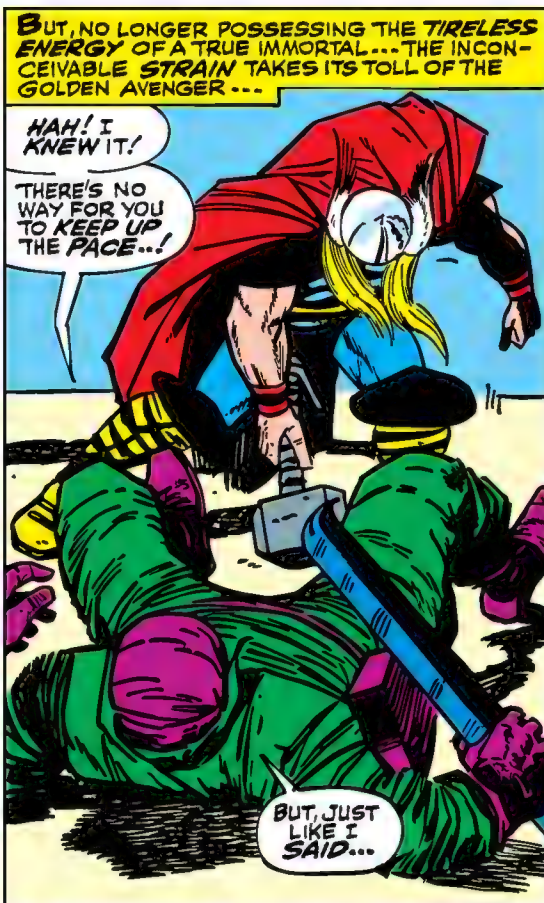
THPOOM!

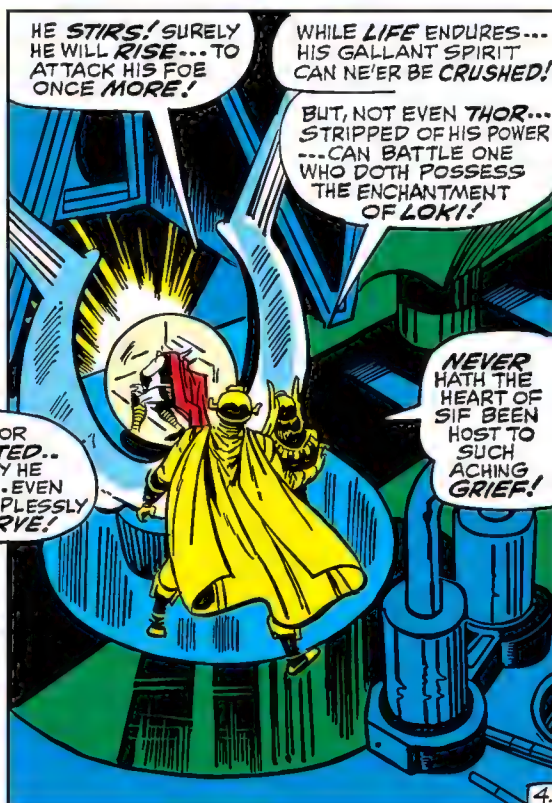
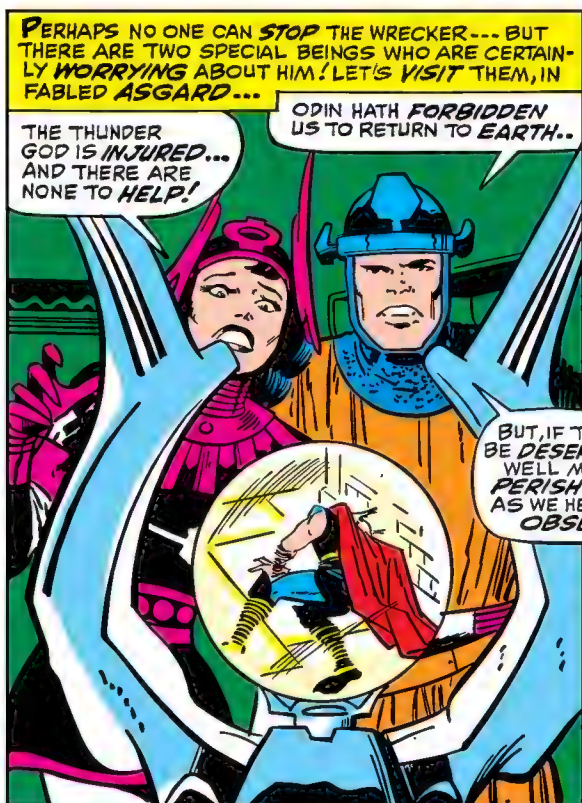
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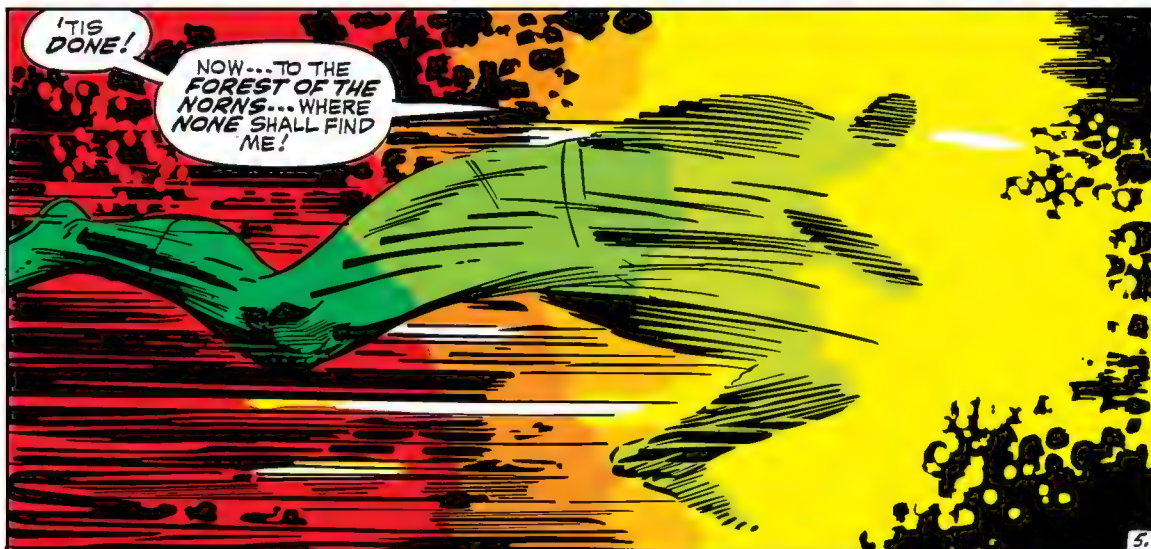
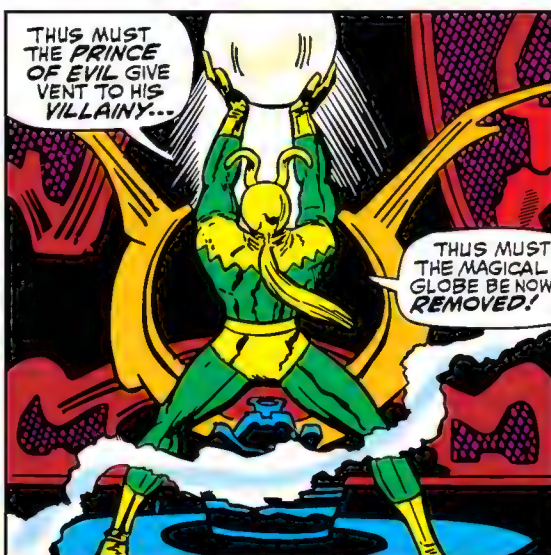
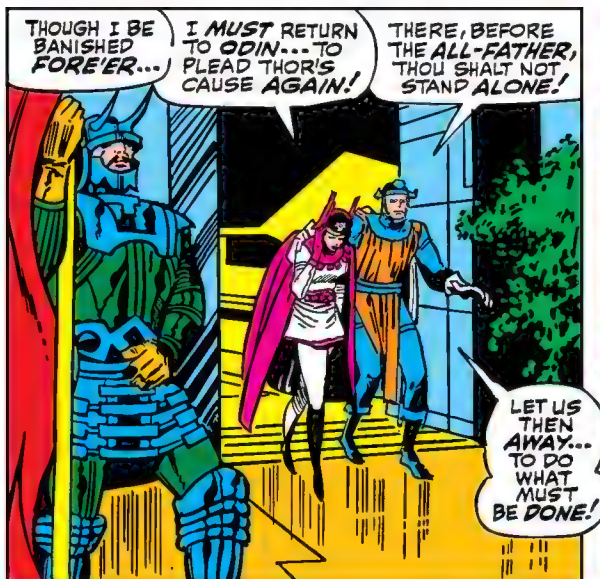
STAN And **JACK**
(THE MAN) (KING)
LEE **KIRBY**
(AS IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW!)

EMBELLISHMENT: VINCE COLLETTA
LETTERING: SAM ROSEN
NOW C'MON! EVERY SECOND COUNTS...!











BUT, WHAT OF HIM WHOM WE CALL THE **WRECKER**? ATTEND OUR WORDS, BELIEVER, AS BACK TO **EARTH** WE GO---

MORE! MORE! MORE!

I MUST HAVE IT **ALL!!**

IF I'M THE **STRONGEST** ONE IN THE WORLD... I ALSO HAVE TO BE THE **RICHEST**!

HAND IT **OVER...** WHILE YOU STILL CAN!

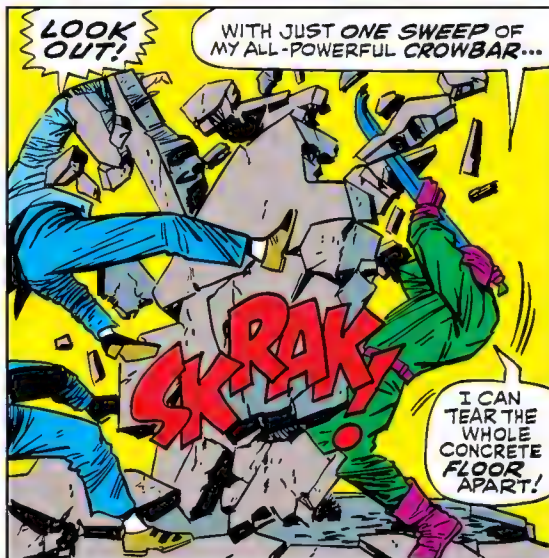


HOLD IT, MISTER! WE GOT YOU **COVERED!**

AND DON'T GET ANY BRIGHT **IDEAS** ABOUT FIGHTING YOUR WAY **PAST** US...

THERE'S A SQUAD OF **POLICE** ON THEIR WAY HERE **RIGHT** NOW!

TWO PUNY **GUARDS...** DARING TO **DEFY** THE **WRECKER**?!!



LOOK OUT!

WITH JUST ONE **SWEEP** OF MY ALL-POWERFUL **CROWBAR...**

I CAN **TEAR** THE WHOLE **CONCRETE FLOOR** APART!



GUNFIRE!!

IT MEANS THE **POLICE** HAVE **ARRIVED!**



OKAY, MAC... THE **PARTY'S OVER!** DROP THAT **BAR...** NOW!

HE MUST BE **BATTY...** THINKING HE COULD GET AWAY WITH IT!

WATCH IT, MEN! NO TELLIN' **HOW STRONG** HE IS!

SO THAT'S THE **WRECKER!**

...DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH TO ME!

BUT, BEFORE THE STARTLED LAW-OFFICERS CAN MAKE ANOTHER MOVE, THE ENCHANTED **CROWBAR** LASHES OUT... CARRYING ITS GLOATING MASTER RIGHT **THROUGH** THE NOW-CRUMBLING SOLID BRICK WALL....!

SO! YOU *STILL* DON'T REALIZE THE INVINCIBLE **POWER** I POSSESS!



BUT, AFTER **THIS...**
YOU WILL NEVER DOUBT IT AGAIN!

HERE, IN MY HANDS, I HOLD THE **SUPREME WEAPON!!**

THIS **CROWBAR**...WITH ITS ENCHANTED POWER... CAN BRING YOUR WHOLE CITY CRASHIN' INTO THE DUST!

AND I'M JUST THE GUY TO DO IT!



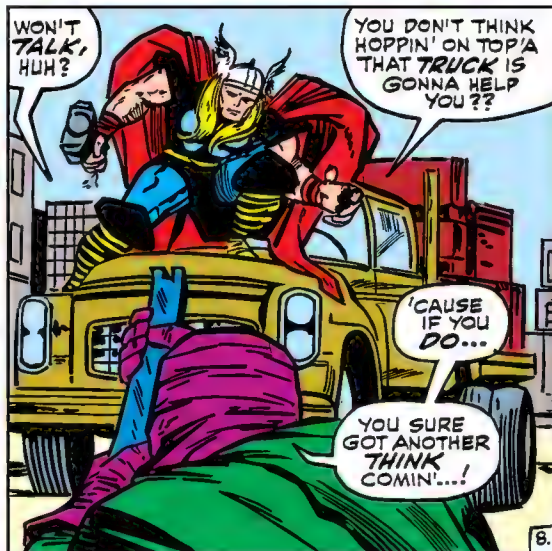
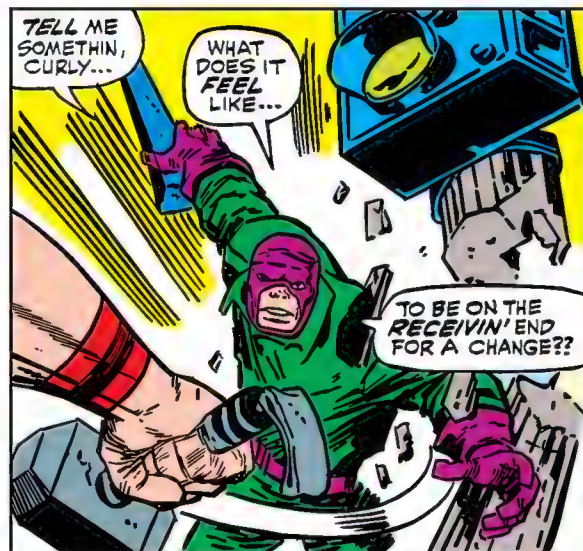
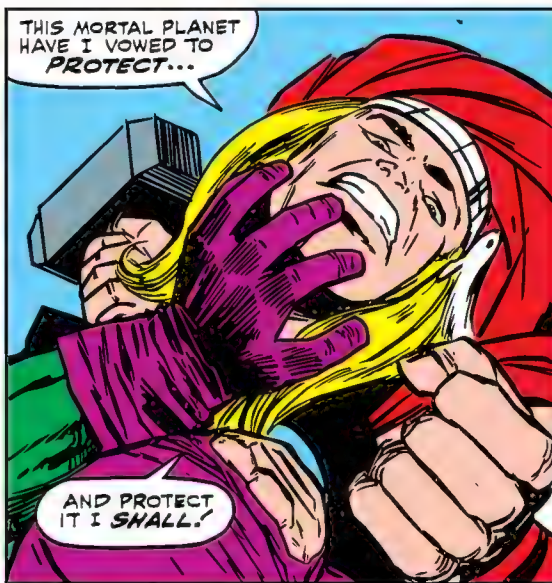
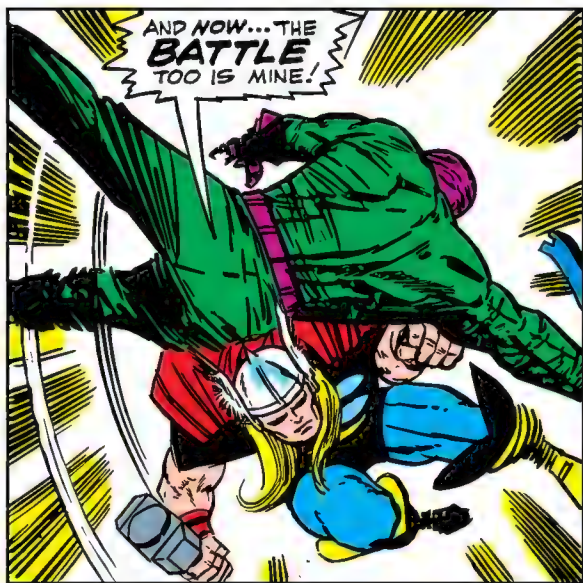
BUT, SUDDENLY...A **NEW** FIGURE ENTERS THE SCENE! BATTERED, BRUISED, EVERY LIMB SORE AND ACHING... **STILL** HE ADVANCES...

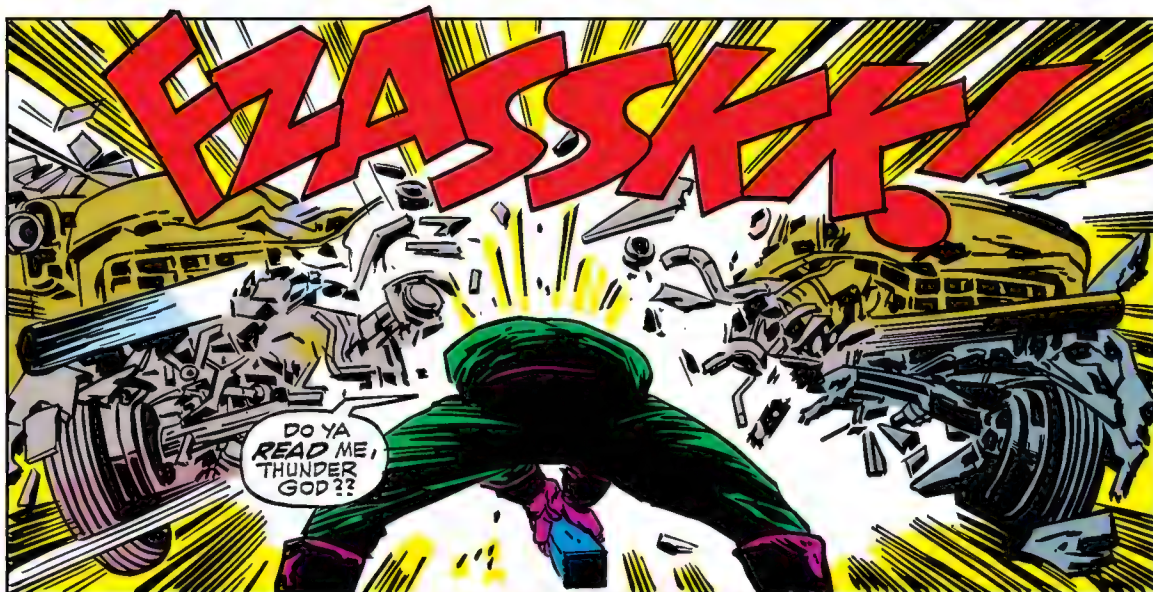
STAND BACK, ALL!

THY MORTAL WEAPONS CANNOT PREVAIL AGAINST THE **WRECKER!**



THE **FOE** IS MINE!
THE **TASK** IS MINE!





DO YA
READ ME,
THUNDER
GOD??



BUT, WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...

HEY!
WHAT
GIVES?!!

WHERE'D HE
DISAPPEAR
TO??



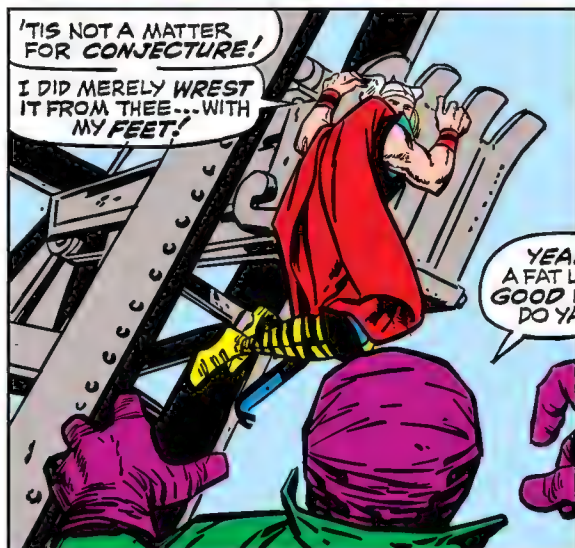
NOT YET HAST
THOU LEARNED...

THE FRUITS OF
VICTORY ARE
FOR THE WISE...

AS WELL
AS THE
STRONG!

MY
CROWBAR!!

HEY!
WADDAYA
THINK
YOU'RE
DOIN'?!!



'TIS NOT A MATTER
FOR CONJECTURE!

I DID MERELY WREST
IT FROM THEE...WITH
MY FEET!

YEAH?
A FAT LOTTA
GOOD IT'LL
DO YA!



WITH OR
WITHOUT
THAT HUNK'A
IRON---

I'M STILL THE JOKER WITH
THE ENCHANTED POWER!

AND YOU AIN'T
NOTHIN' BUT MY
TARGET FOR
TONIGHT--!

WHEN WE THINK OF THE **TROUBLE** THOR STILL HAS AHEAD OF HIM, WE ALMOST CAN'T FACE IT! SO, WHAT SAY WE TAKE ANOTHER BREAK, AND LOOK IN ON OL' OMNIPOTENT **ODIN** ONCE MORE ...

THOU MUST **NOT** DEMAND WE BE **SILENT**, SIRE...!

NOT WHILST EACH **SECOND** BRINGS THY SON CLOSER TO **DEATH**!

I SAY **THEE**, **NAY**!

EVEN **WITHOUT** HIS **POWER** **IMMORTAL**...

THERE BE **NONE** ON **MIDGARD*** THAT **THOR** NEED **FEAR**!

* WHEN YOU'RE **ODIN**, YOU CAN CALL EARTH "MIDGARD" IF YOU WANT TO! ...**SAGACIOUS STAN**.

THINK YOU THE **HEART** OF THY **LIEGE** BE **COLD** AND **UNCARING** ??

I DO BUT SEEK TO **PUNISH** **THOR**! I HAVE **NO** WISH TO SEE HIM **SLAIN**!

THEN **SPEED** **THEE** **HENCE** TO THE **CHAMBER** OF **VISIONS**...

THERE THOU SHALT SEE THE **DANGER** MOST **DREAD** THAT EVEN **NOW** **CONFRONTS** HIM!

AT AN **IMPERIOUS NOD** FROM THEIR **LORDLY** **HOST**, THE TWO **DESPERATE** **IMMORTALS** RETURN TO THE **CHAMBER**, ONLY TO **FIND**...

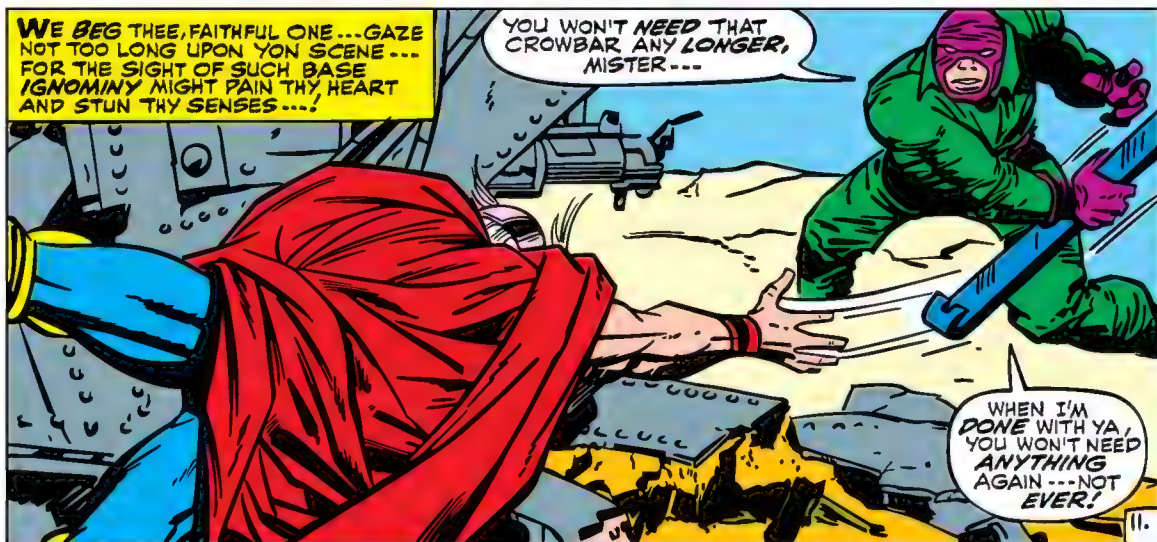
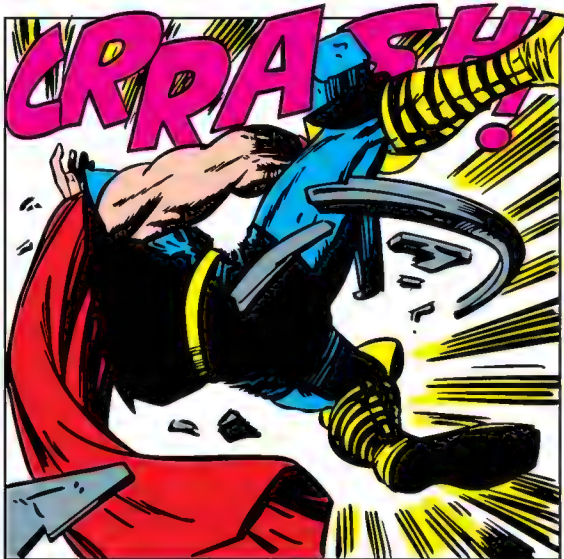
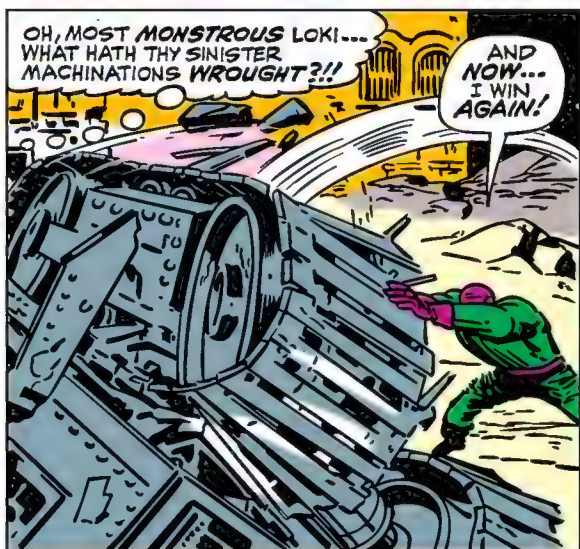
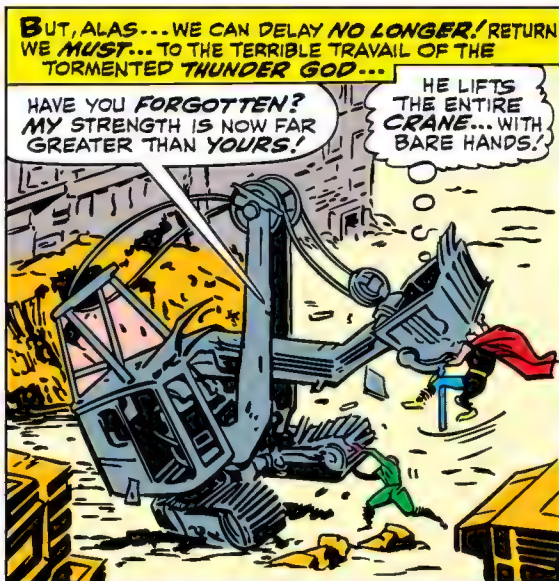
THE **ENCHANTED** **CRYSTAL**! IT IS **GONE**!

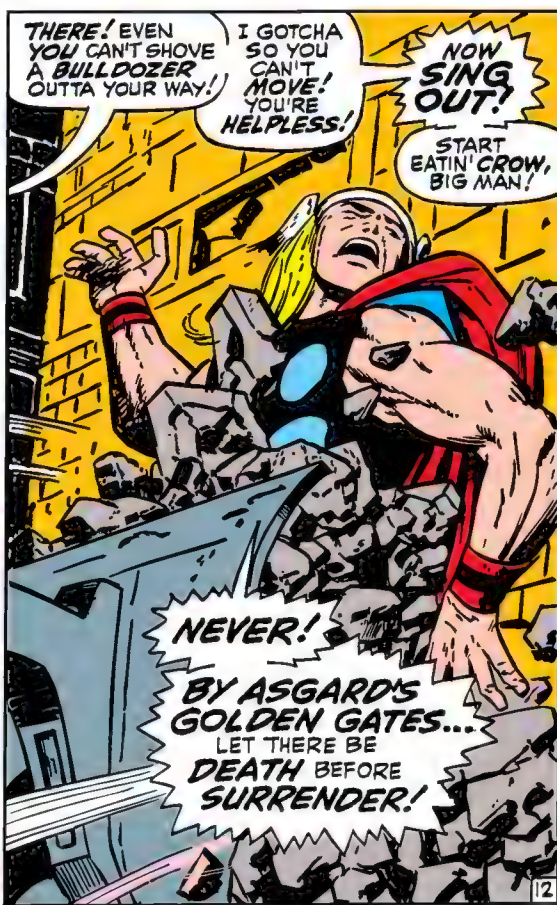
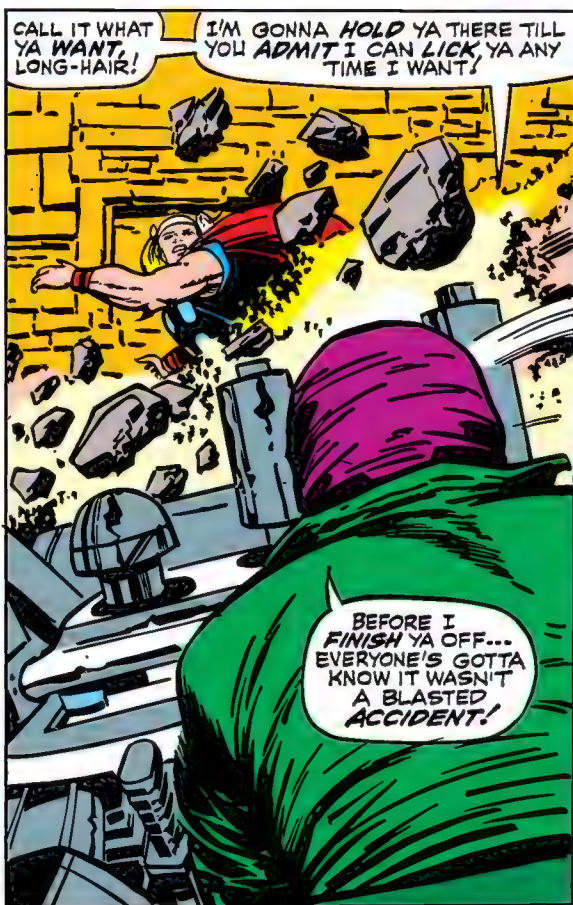
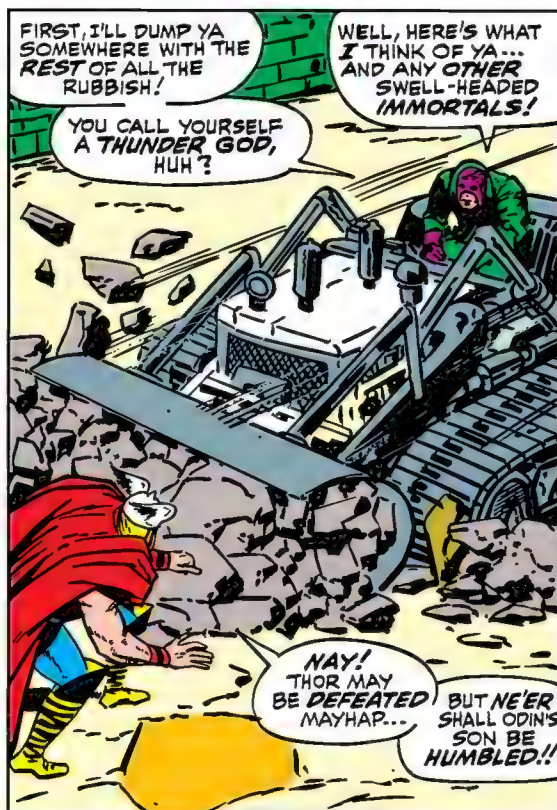
'TIS NO **MERE** **ACCIDENT** THAT IT BE **NOT** **HERE**!

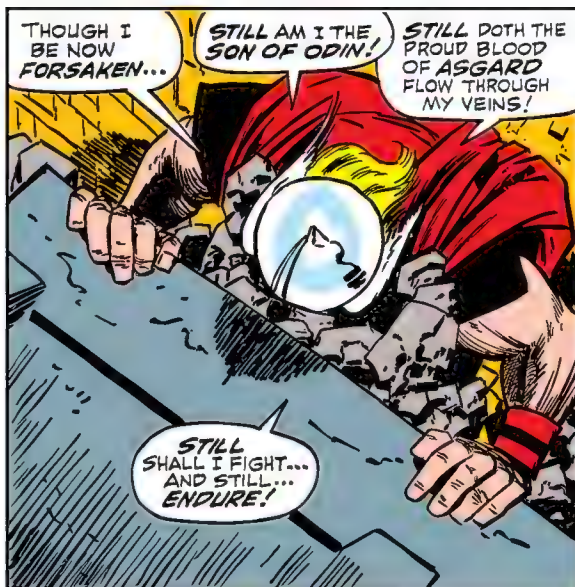
BUT... WHO WOULD **DARE** **PURLOIN** SO **FATEFUL** AN **OBJECT** FROM THE **PALACE** **IMPERIAL** ??

THINK UPON IT, MY **LADY**! THERE IS SUCH A **ONE**! THERE IS **BUT** **ONE**...

THE **MOST** **CUNNING** **LOKI**!





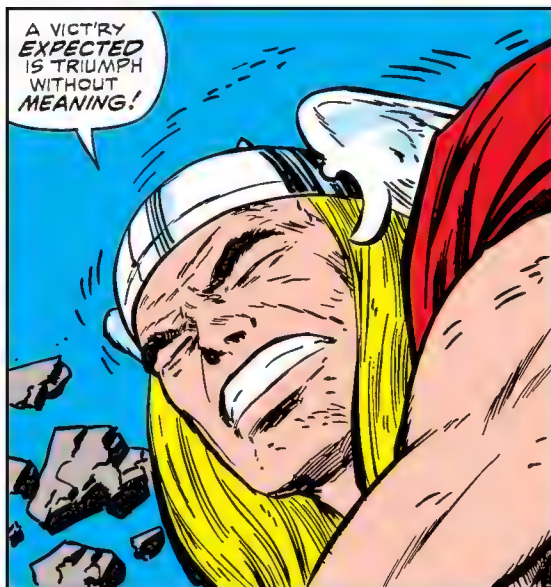


THOUGH I
BE NOW
FORSAKEN...

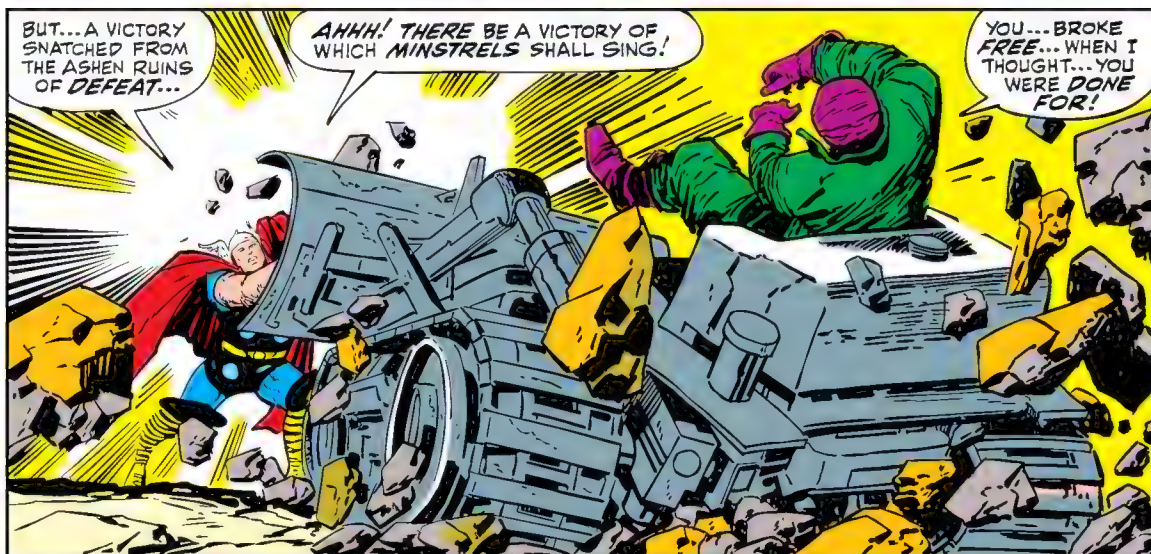
STILL AM I THE
SON OF ODIN!

STILL DO TH THE
PROUD BLOOD
OF ASGARD
FLOW THROUGH
MY VEINS!

STILL
SHALL I FIGHT...
AND STILL...
ENDURE!



A VICT'RY
EXPECTED
IS TRIUMPH
WITHOUT
MEANING!



BUT...A VICTORY
SNATCHED FROM
THE ASHEN RUINS
OF DEFEAT...

ANHH! THERE BE A VICTORY OF
WHICH MINSTRELS SHALL SING!

YOU... BROKE
FREE... WHEN I
THOUGHT... YOU
WERE DONE
FOR!

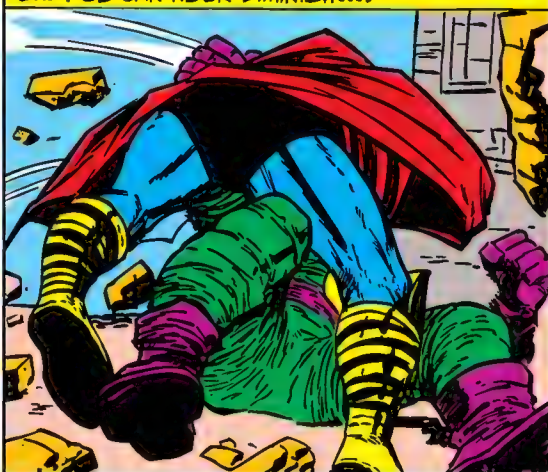


FOR
ASGARD...
FOR
HONOR
ETERNAL!

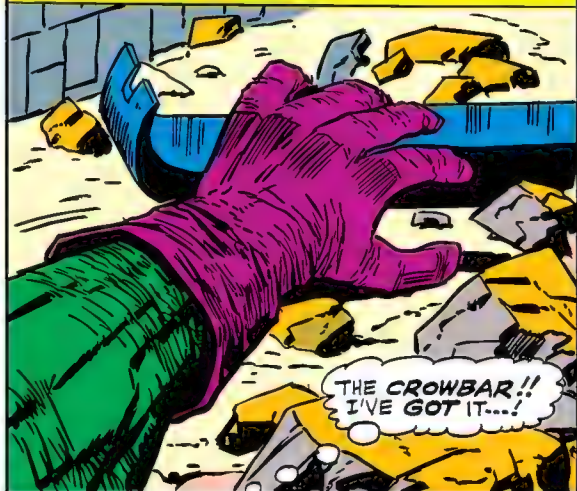


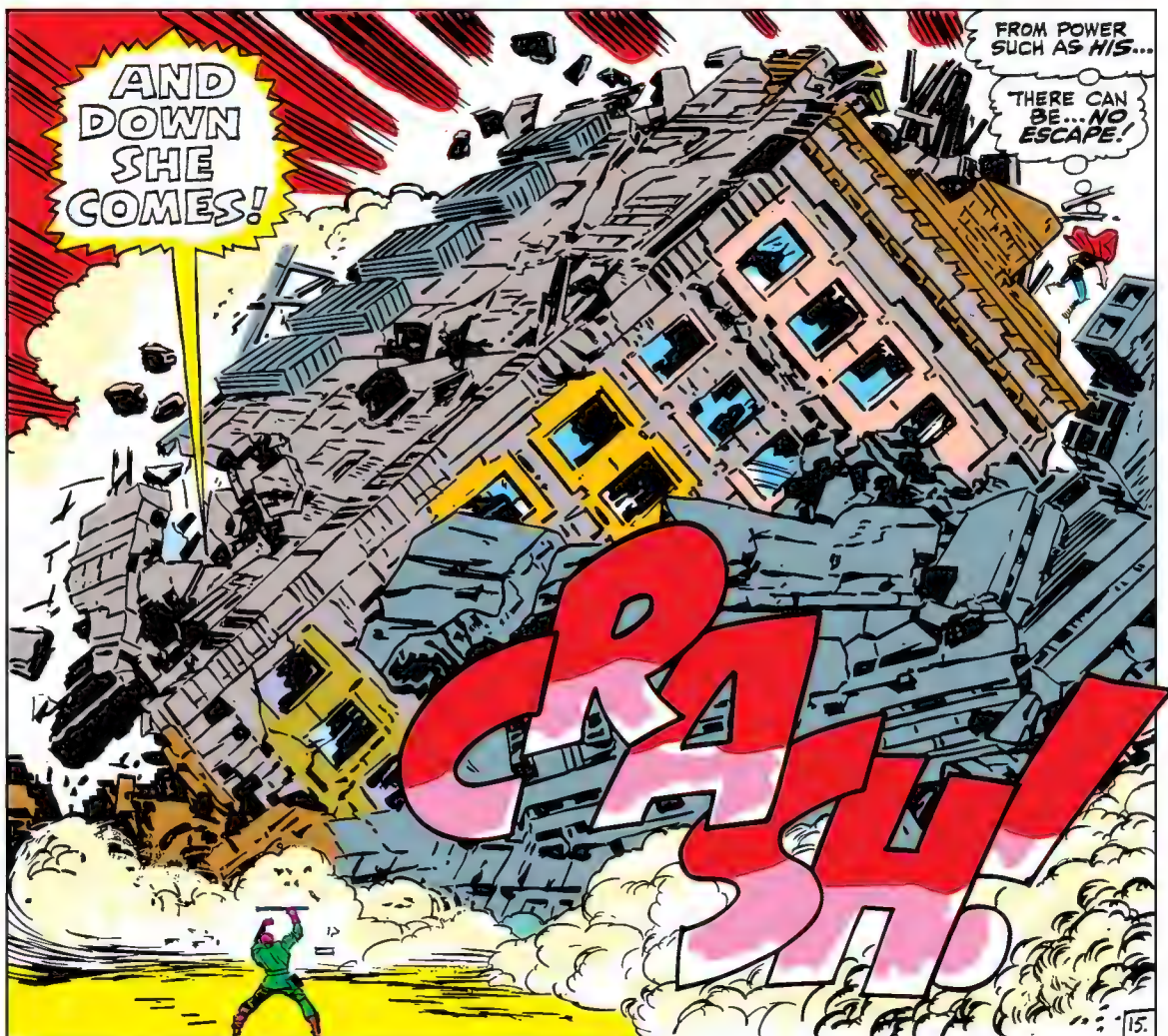
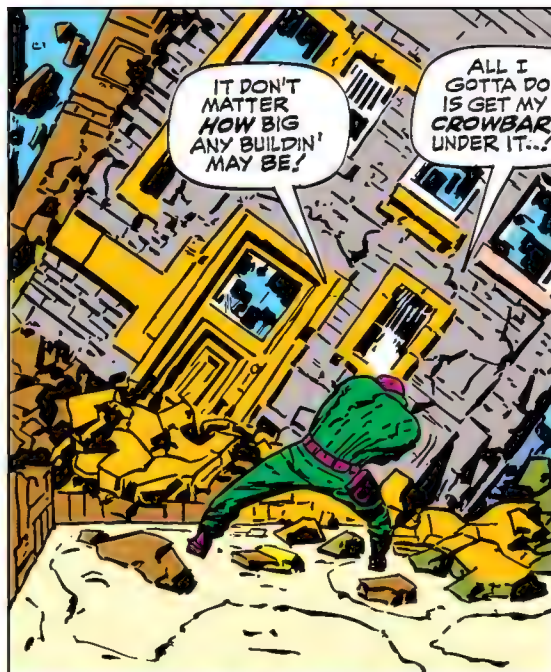


BUT, THOUGH HE FIGHTS LIKE A TIGER UNLEASHED, THE VALIANT IMMORTAL KNOWS FULL WELL THAT THE END DRAWS NEAR... FOR HIS LIMBS GROW EVER WEAKER... WHILST THE ENCHANTED POWER OF HIS EVIL FOE CAN NE'ER DIMINISH...!



AND, EVEN AS THE RAGING BATTLE REACHES ITS CATAclysmic CLIMAX...





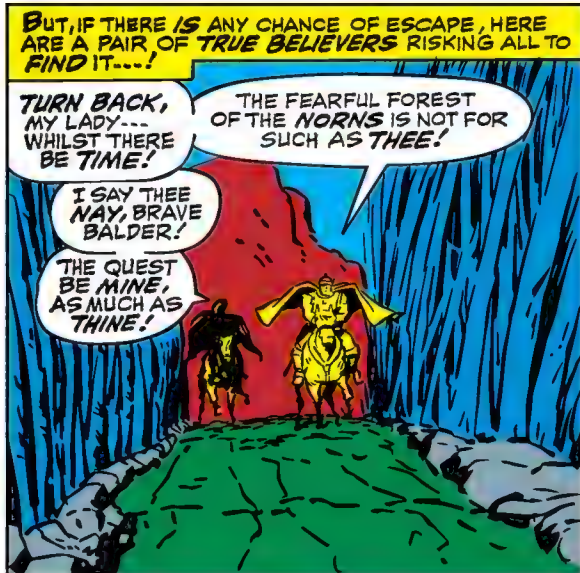
BUT, IF THERE IS ANY CHANCE OF ESCAPE, HERE ARE A PAIR OF TRUE BELIEVERS RISKING ALL TO FIND IT....!

TURN BACK, MY LADY... WHILST THERE BE TIME!

I SAY THEE MAY, BRAVE BALDER!

THE QUEST BE MINE, AS MUCH AS THINE!

THE FEARFUL FOREST OF THE NORN'S IS NOT FOR SUCH AS THEE!



SO LONG AS DOOM AWAITS THE GOD OF THUNDER... THERE IS NO DANGER WHICH CAN STAY THE HAND... OR THE HEART... OF SIF!

EVEN SO, MY LADY...

BALDER MUST TELL THEE THIS...



'TIS SAID THAT THEY WHO FALL BEFORE THE POWER OF THE NORN... MUST FLEE FOR THEIR VERY LIVES!

AND, IN THAT FLIGHT....

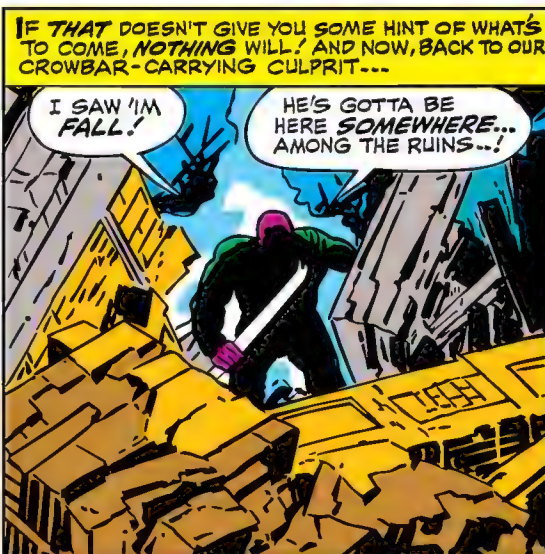
ONE THING MUST THEY LEAVE BEHIND... THAT WHICH IS CALLED --- THEIR SOUL!



IF THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU SOME HINT OF WHAT'S TO COME, NOTHING WILL! AND NOW, BACK TO OUR CROWBAR - CARRYING CULPRIT...

I SAW 'IM FALL!

HE'S GOTTA BE HERE SOMEWHERE... AMONG THE RUINS...!

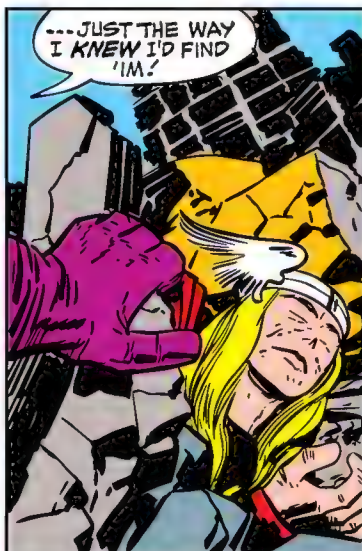


I WAS RIGHT!

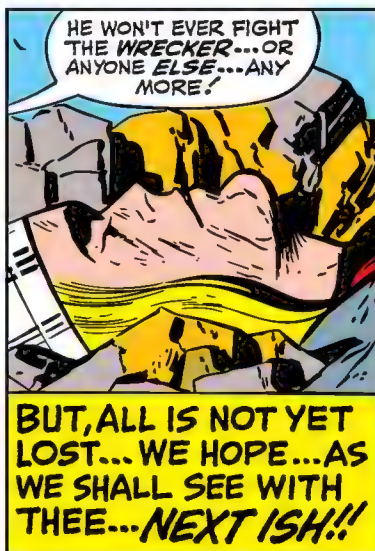
THERE HE IS...!



---JUST THE WAY I KNEW I'D FIND 'IM!



HE WON'T EVER FIGHT THE WRECKER...OR ANYONE ELSE...ANY MORE!



BUT, ALL IS NOT YET LOST... WE HOPE...AS WE SHALL SEE WITH THEE...NEXT ISH!!



THE MIGHTY THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP
12¢
IND. 150
MAR

EVEN IN DEATH...

MCG



THE MIGHTY THOR!

EVEN IN DEATH...

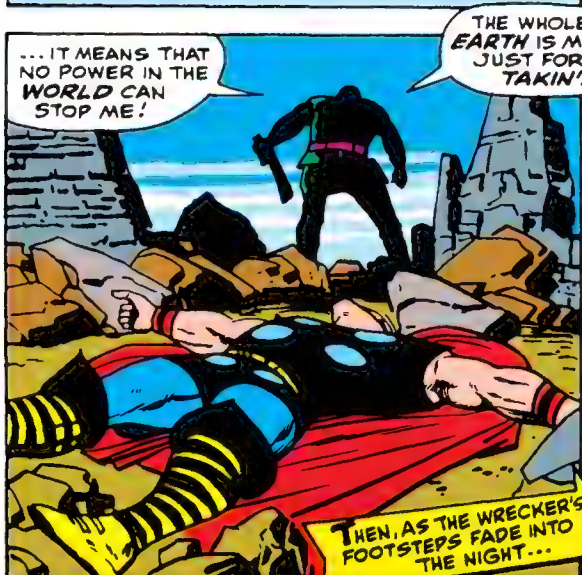
STRIPPED OF HIS GODLY POWER BY A VENGEFUL ODIN, THE MIGHTY **THUNDER GOD** BATTLES VALIANTLY, ALTHOUGH HOPELESSLY, AGAINST THE EVIL **WRECKER**...UNTIL, AT LAST, **THOR FALLS**...TOPPLED BY THE MERCILESS FOE WHO HAS ACCIDENTALLY GAINED THE ENCHANTED POWER INTENDED FOR **LOKI** HIMSELF...!

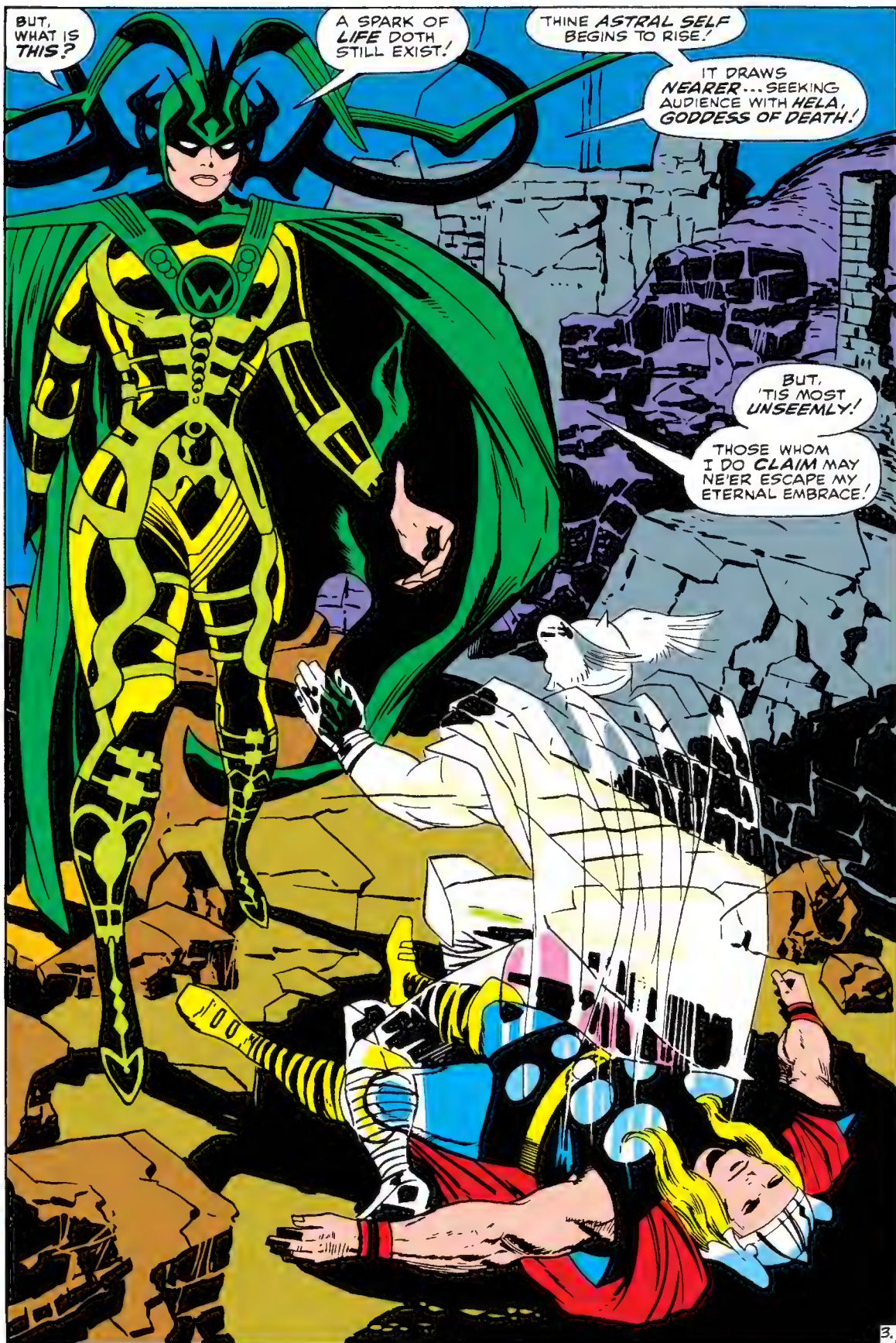
THEN, SLOWLY... GLEEFULLY... THE TRIUMPHANT **WRECKER** REMOVES THE RUBBLE WHICH COVERS THE FALLEN ASGARDIAN...

PRESENTING:
A PICTORIAL
MONUMENT TO THE
TOWERING TALENTS OF:
STAN **JACK**
(THE MAN) (KING)
LEE *And* **KIRBY**
CREATORS OF WONDERMENT
BEYOND MORTAL MEASURE!

DAZZLINGLY DELINEATED BY:
VINCENT COLLETTA
LOVINGLY LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN

A LIVING TRIBUTE TO
MARVELDOM
ASSEMBLED!





BUT,
WHAT IS
THIS?

A SPARK OF
LIFE DOTH
STILL EXIST!

THINE ASTRAL SELF
BEGINS TO RISE!

IT DRAWS
NEARER... SEEKING
AUDIENCE WITH HELA,
GODDESS OF DEATH!

BUT,
'TIS MOST
UNSEEMLY!

THOSE WHOM
I DO CLAIM MAY
NE'ER ESCAPE MY
ETERNAL EMBRACE!

AND, EVEN AS THE SON OF ODIN FATEFULLY HOVERS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH...

IN THE CAVERN KINGDOM OF THE NORMS, WITCH QUEEN KARNILLA GRANTS SANCTUARY TO THE GOD OF EVIL...

I BID THEE WELCOME, LOKI!

GREETINGS, MOST PERFIPOUS PARTNER IN EVIL!

THE ENCHANTED POWER THOU DIDST SEND ME WAS INTERCEPTED BY A MORTAL WHOM MEN CALL THE WRECKER!

BUT, 'T WAS ALL FOR THE BEST...

FOR HE DID SLAY THE ACCURSED THOR!

THEN 'T IS ENDED... AT LAST!

NAY! THE UNBENDING BALDER MUST BE NEXT TO FALL!

EVEN NOW HE DOTR DRAW NEAR, SEEKING TO REGAIN YON ENCHANTED CRYSTAL GLOBE!

AND, AT HIS SIDE, THE BEAUTEOUS SIF!

FIE UPON IT!

MY FOREST BARBARIC WILL DESTROY THEM BOTH...ERE THIS DAY BE ENDED!

ONLY BY RETRIEVING THE MAGIC CRYSTAL, NOBLE BALDER, CAN WE SHOW THE ALL-FATHER HOW DESPERATE IS THE PLIGHT OF HIS ABANDONED SON!

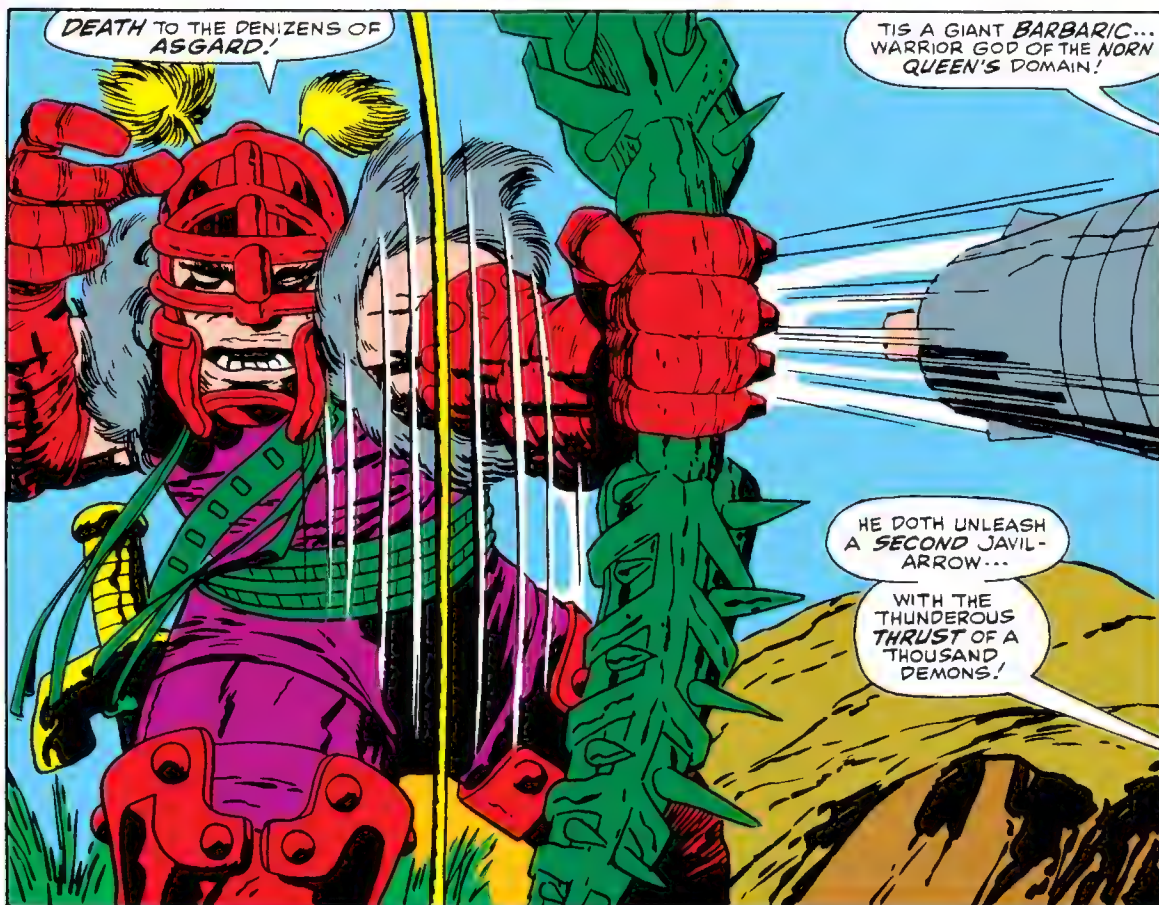
THOU HAST THE WORD OF BALDER, LADY... WE SHALL NOT FAIL!

BUT HOLD! THERE BE A RUSTLE IN YON THICKET!

MAIDEN... TAKE THEE COVER!

WE BE ATTACKED!

POK!



DEATH TO THE DENIZENS OF ASGARD!

'TIS A GIANT **BARBARIC**...
WARRIOR GOD OF THE NORN
QUEEN'S DOMAIN!

HE DOTHT UNLEASH
A **SECOND JAVIL-
ARROW**...

WITH THE
**THUNDEROUS
THRUST** OF A
THOUSAND
DEMONS!



BALDER!! THOU
HAST **SAVED** THYSELF
BY **MANEUVERING** WITH
SUCH **SKILL** THAT THE
DEADLY PRONGS DIDST
MISS THEE!

BUT NOW, THE SWORD OF
SIF MUST HASTEN TO
THY AID!

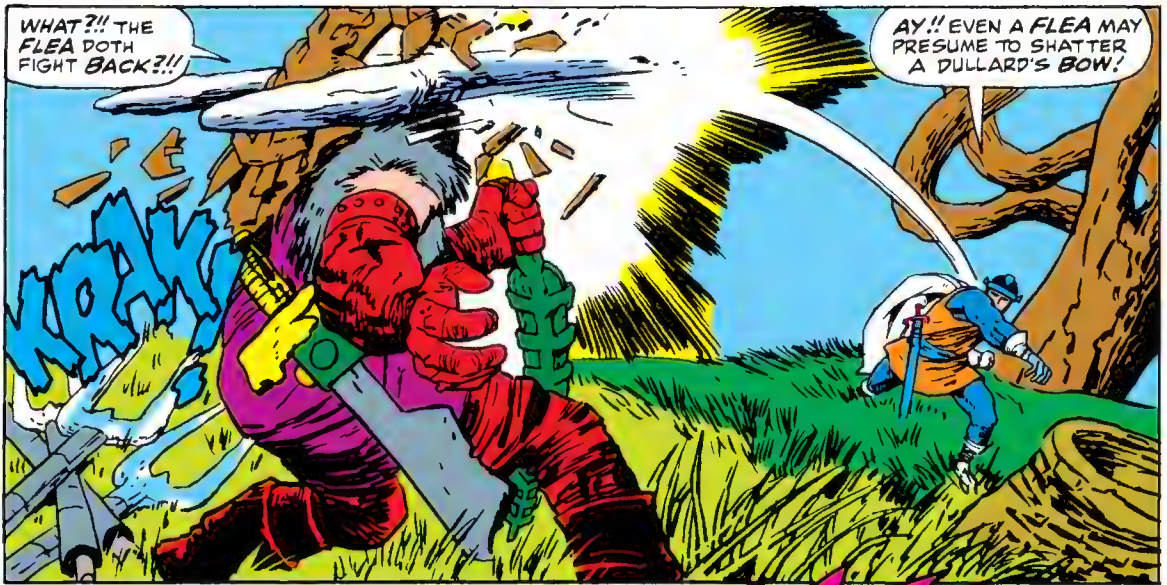
I SAY THEE
NAY!

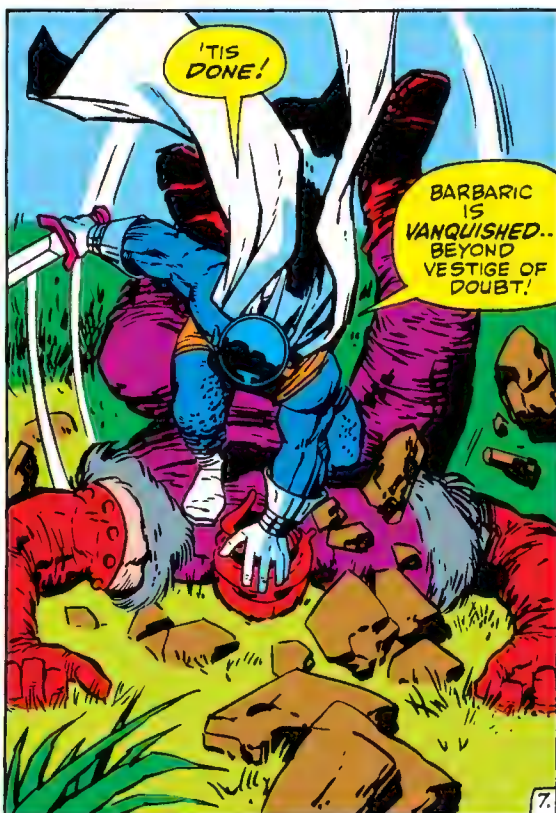


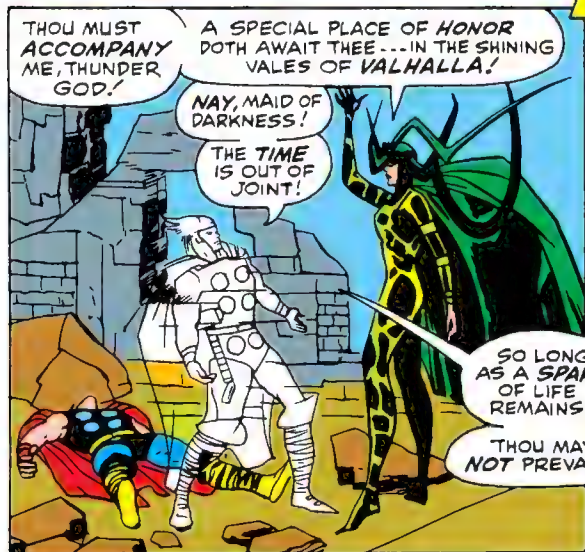
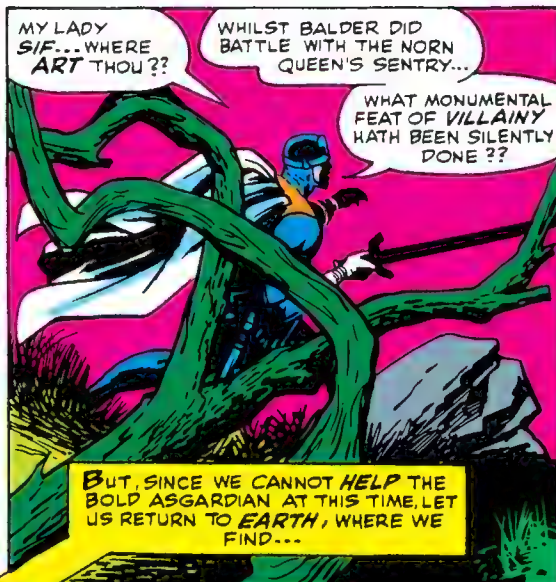
THOUGH I BE LESS
THAN **THUNDER
GOD**... I BE
MORE THAN
BARBARIC!

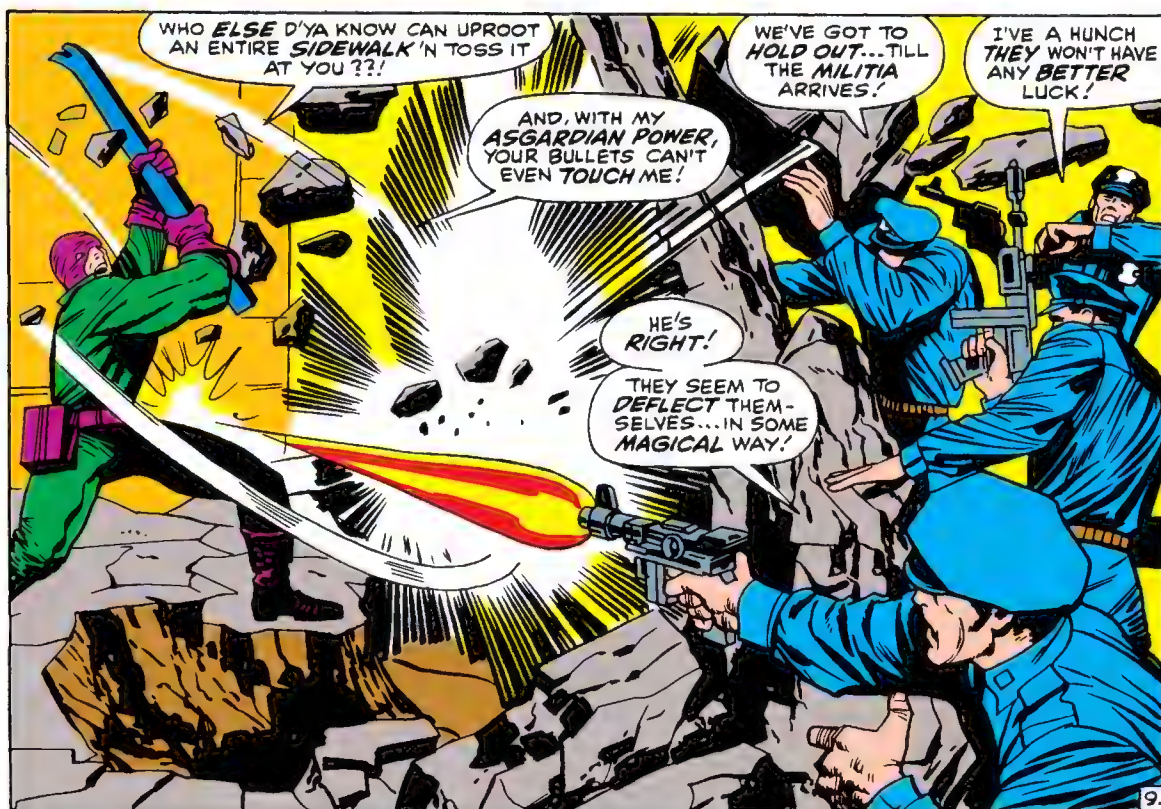
LET **KARNILLA** BEHOLD
HOW **BALDER** THE **BRAVE**
DOTHT FIGHT!!

THOU
HAST **FREED**
THYSELF...IN
MANNER
BEFITTING A
WARRIOR
BORN!

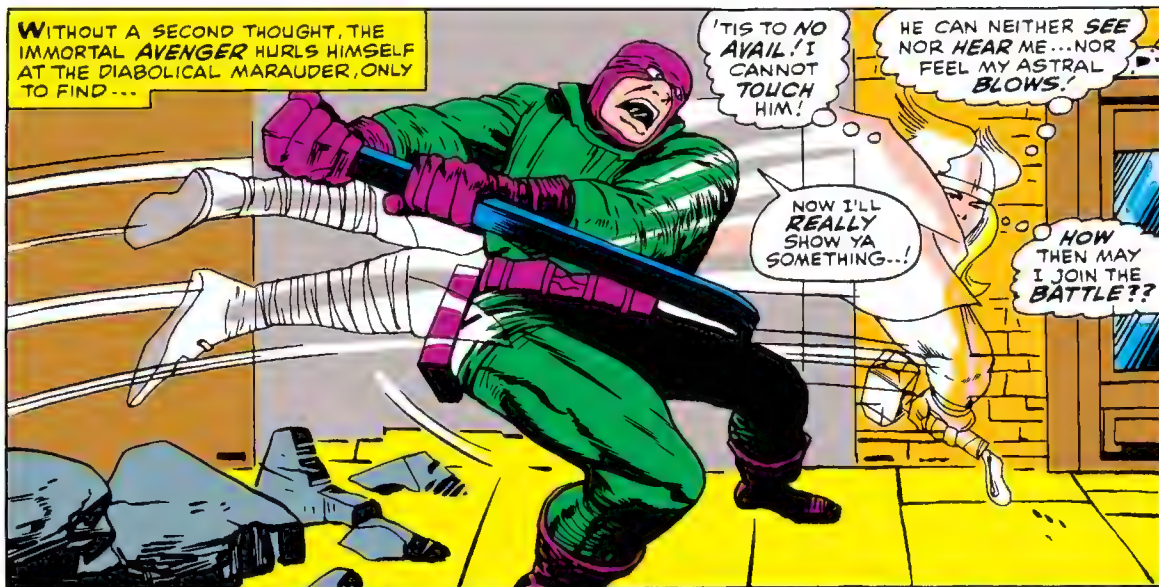








WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT, THE IMMORTAL AVENGER HURLS HIMSELF AT THE DIABOLICAL MARAUDER, ONLY TO FIND...

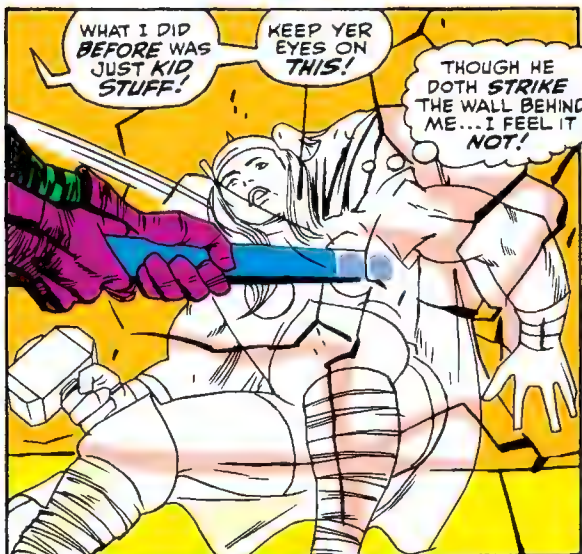


'TIS TO NO AVAIL! I CANNOT TOUCH HIM!

HE CAN NEITHER SEE NOR HEAR ME...NOR FEEL MY ASTRAL BLOWS!

NOW I'LL REALLY SHOW YA SOMETHING...

HOW THEN MAY I JOIN THE BATTLE??



WHAT I DID BEFORE WAS JUST KID STUFF!

KEEP YER EYES ON THIS!

THOUGH HE DOTHS STRIKE THE WALL BEHIND ME...I FEEL IT NOT!



BY THE RAGE OF RAGNAROK... HOW DO I HALT YON MADNESS??!

KRRRAK!



HAAH!! I TOPPLED THE WHOLE SIDE OF A BUILDING...WITH JUST ONE BLOW OF MY CROWBAR!

THERE'S NOTHING THE WRECKER CAN'T DO...NOTHING! NOTHING!!

RRROON!



OKAY, BLUECOATS... YA HAD YER CHANCE!

NOW THAT THE ENTERTAINMENT'S OVER...

IT'S TIME FOR THE SHOWDOWN!

THIS IS WHERE THE WRECKER TAKES OVER!

SO TITANIC ARE THE FATEFUL FORCES AT WORK, IT'S HARD TO KNOW WHAT TO WORRY ABOUT FIRST! FOR EXAMPLE REMEMBER NOBLE **BALDER**..?

THE STUNNING **SIF** HATH TRULY VANISHED!

METHINKS THE ATTACK OF YON **BARBARIC** WAS BUT A **RUSE**, TO KEEP ME AT BAY!

NOW!

A BLOW GUN PELLET!!

DISCHARGING ITS POTENT CARGO OF IRRESISTIBLE **SLUMBER HERBS**!

BY MY BLADE!!

'TIS THE MARK OF HIDDEN **FOREST TROLLS**!

IN SUCH A MANNER... MUST THE CAPTURED **SIF**... HAVE BEEN LIKE-WISE SUBDUED...!

MY BRAIN GROWS **CLOUDED**... MY LIMBS GROW **WEARY**..!

VERILY... I AM... **UNDONE**!!

NO SOONER DOES THE GALLANT WARRIOR SLUMP TO THE GROUND, WHEN...

QUICKLY!! TO THE CAVERN OF **KARNILLA** WITH HIM!

THE **FEMALE** IS ALREADY **PRISONER** OF THE **NORN QUEEN**!

NONE MAY ENTER THE **FORBIDDEN FOREST**... AND **LIVE** TO TAKE HIS LEAVE!

AND, WITHIN THE ENCHANTED VIEWING CHAMBER OF THE REGAL MISTRESS OF MYSTERY...

BEHOLD!!
THINE ASGARDIAN
COMPANION
TOO HAS FALLEN
VICTIM TO THE WILES
OF MY FAITHFUL
TROLLS!

WE CAME TO
THEE IN PEACE!
BY WHAT RIGHT
DIDST THOU ATTACK
US!

BE THOU
SILENT!

HERE IS
KARNILLA
MONARCH
ABSOLUTE!!

WHILST THOU AND
THINE ASGARDIAN ALLY
BE BASE INTRUDERS
UPON MY LAND!

CALL US WHAT THOU
WILT... BUT HEAR ME
OUT!

WE HAVE COME
TO THEE UPON
A MISSION
MOST GRAVE...

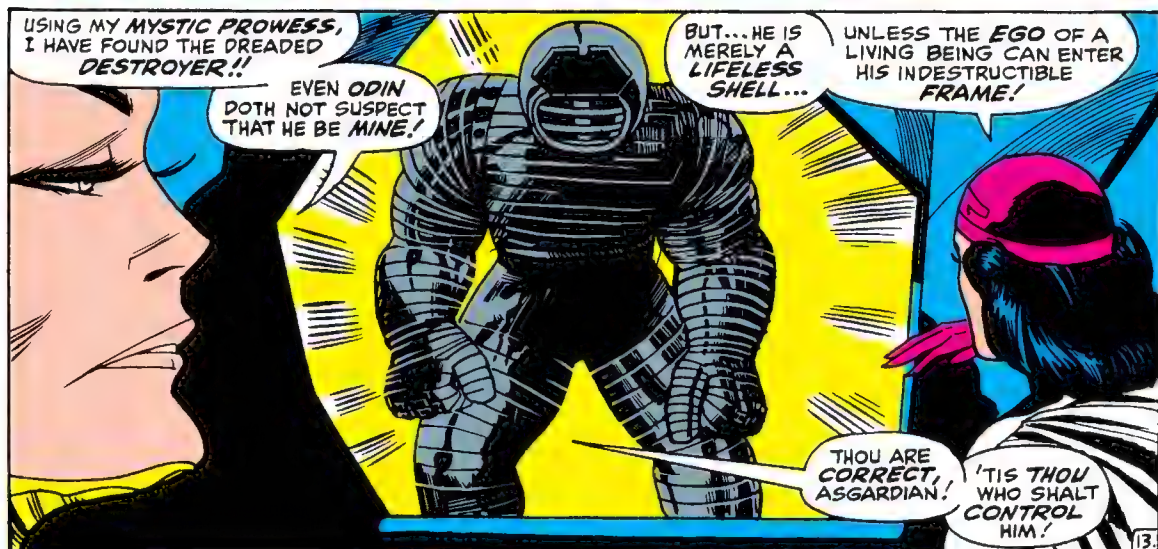
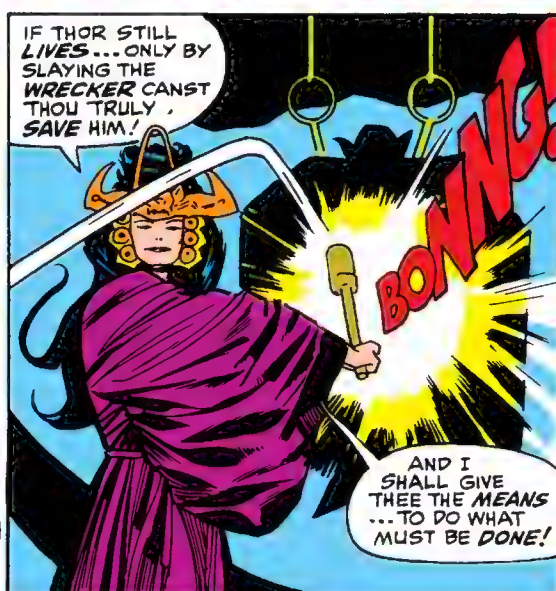
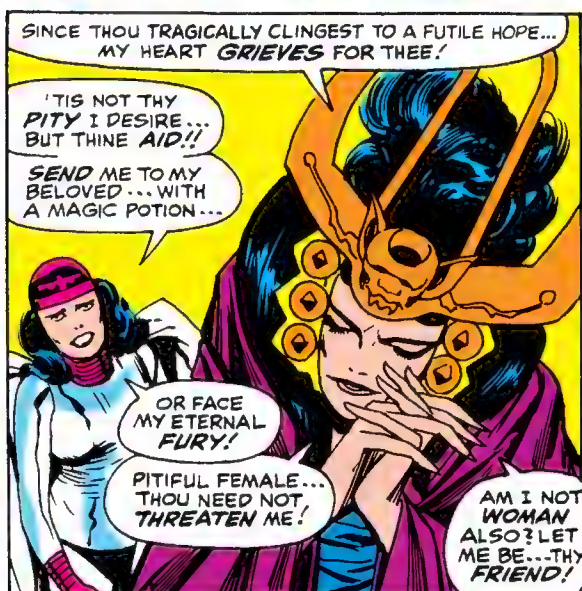
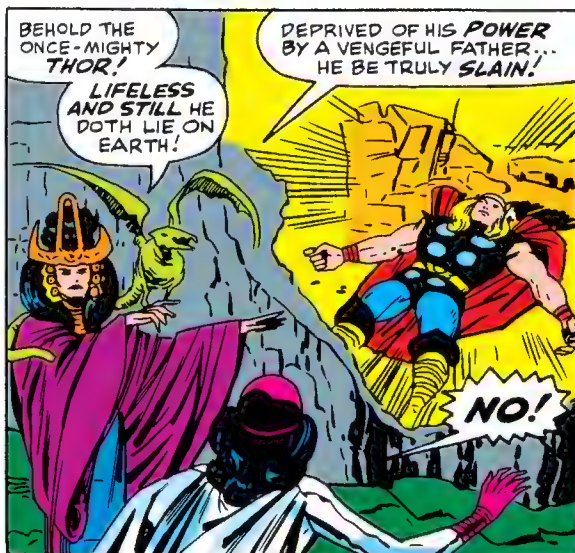
WASTE
NOT THY
WORDS...

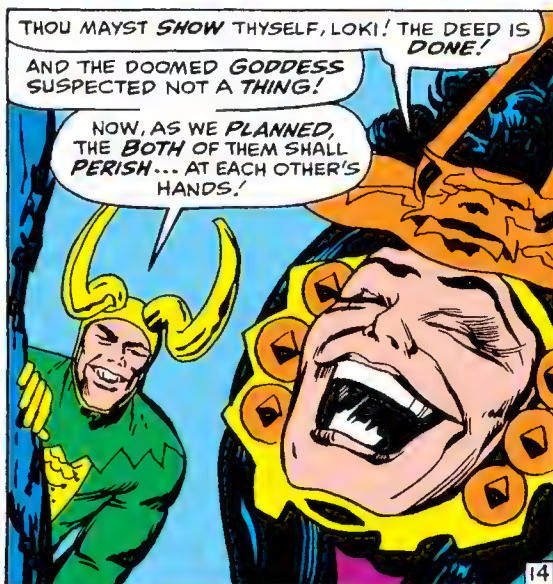
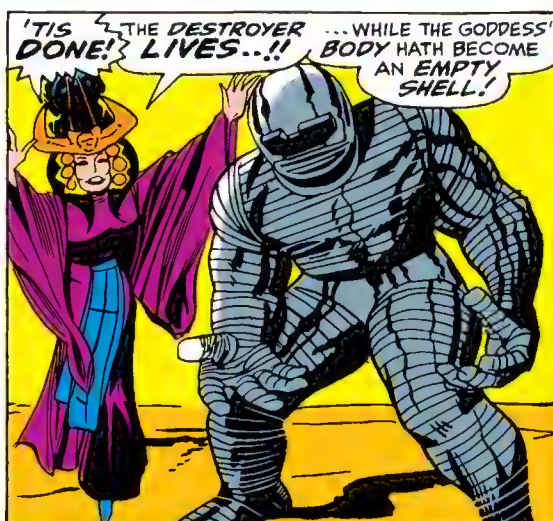
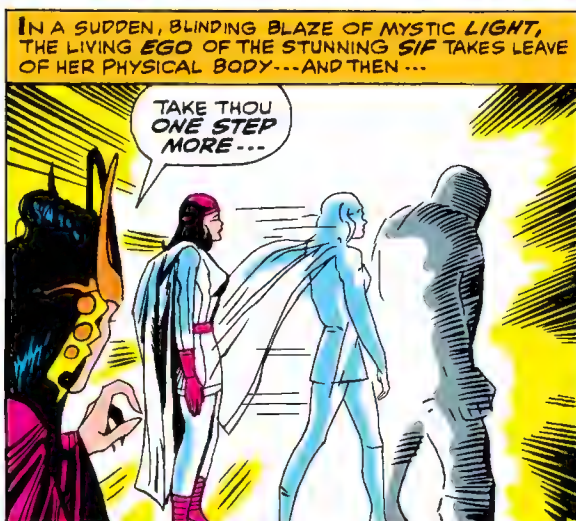
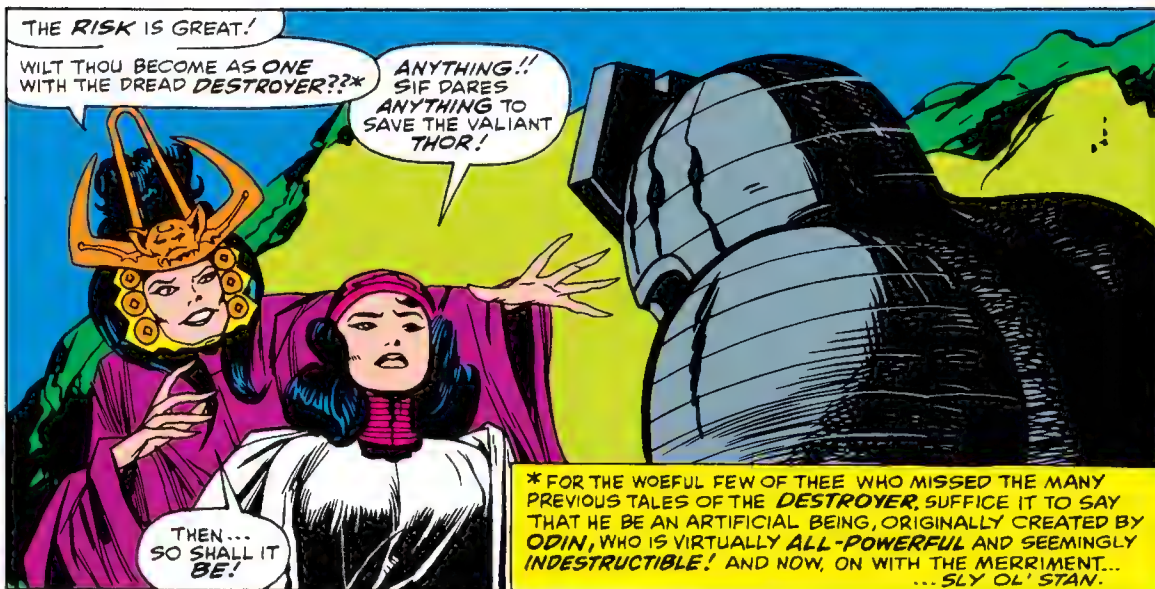
THE
NORN
QUEEN
KNOWS
ALL!

THOU HAST COME
TO AID THE SON
OF ODIN...

BUT, THOU ART...
TOO LATE!

THE GOD
OF THUNDER
IS BEYOND
ALL HOPE!

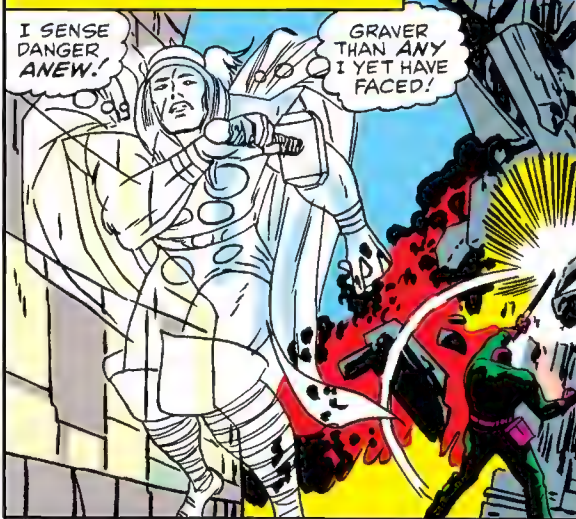




A MICRO-SECOND LATER, THE ASTRAL FORM OF MIGHTY THOR WHEELS ABOUT... AND HASTENS TOWARDS ITS PHYSICAL BODY...

I SENSE DANGER ANEW.

GRAVER THAN ANY I YET HAVE FACED!

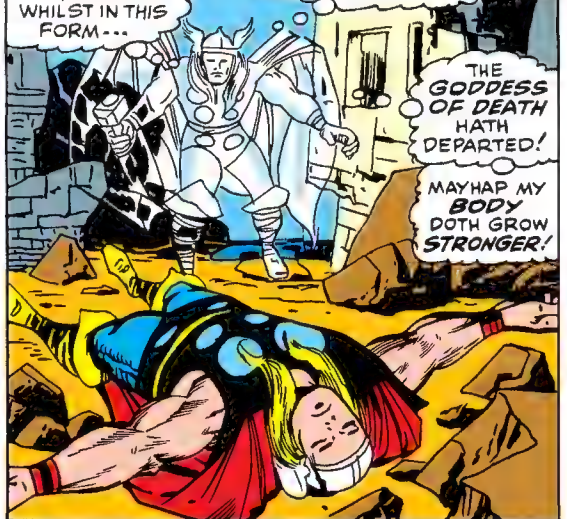


SINCE I AM HELPLESS TO BATTLE THE WRECKER WHILST IN THIS FORM...

I MUST DON ONCE MORE THE MANTLE OF FLESH AND BLOOD!

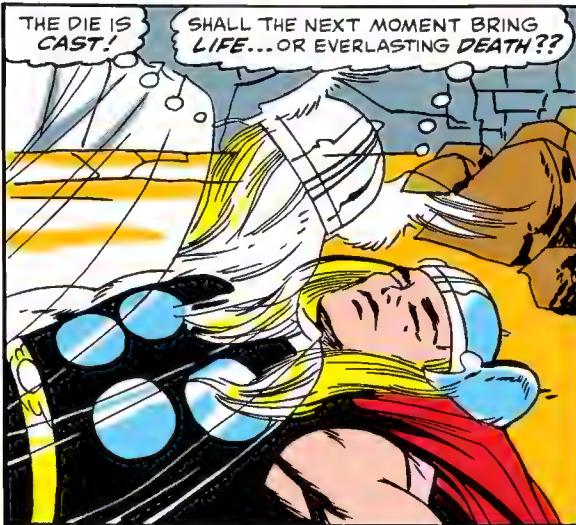
THE GODDESS OF DEATH HATH DEPARTED!

MAYHAP MY BODY DOTH GROW STRONGER!



THE DIE IS CAST!

SHALL THE NEXT MOMENT BRING LIFE...OR EVERLASTING DEATH??



SLOWLY, HALTINGLY, TWO EYELIDS OPEN, AS A GRATEFUL VOICE RINGS OUT...

THE THUNDER GOD STILL LIVES!



AND, EVEN AS THOR FEELS HIS OWN STRENGTH SURGING BACK THRU HIS MIGHTY LIMBS...

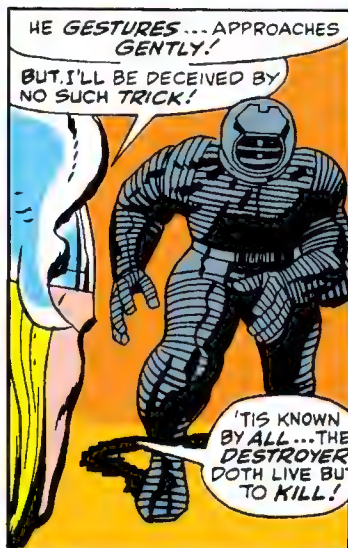
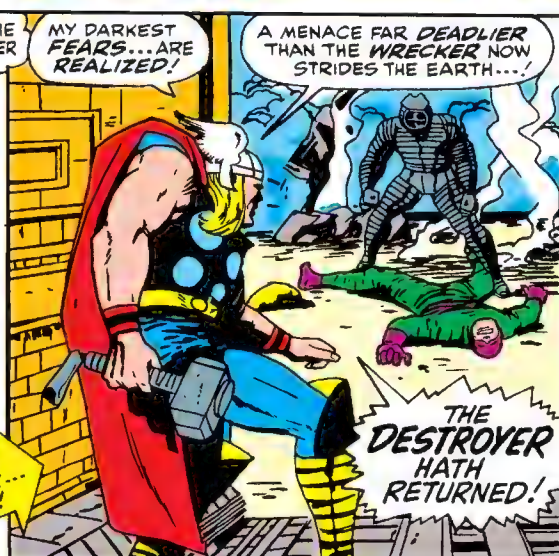
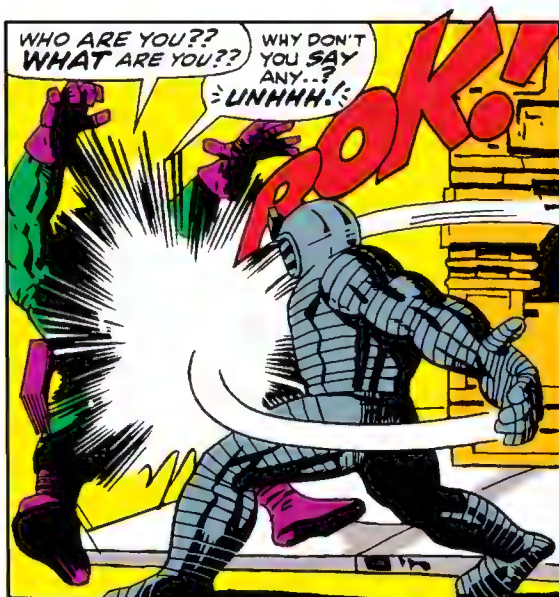
SO!! SOME OTHER COSTUMED FOOL IS GONNA TACKLE THE WRECKER, HUH?

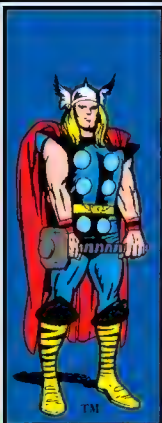
YOU'LL GET THE SAME TREATMENT I GAVE TO GOLDBLOCKS!



NOTHING CAN STAND UP TO MY NEW SUPER POWER!!







THE MIGHTY THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
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..TO RISE AGAIN!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

"TO RISE AGAIN!"

POWERFULLY
PRESENTED IN PULSE-
POUNDING PANORAMASCOPE
BY:

STAN JACK
(THE MAN) *and* (KING)
LEE KIRBY

EMBELLISHED BY:
VINCE COLLETTA

LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN

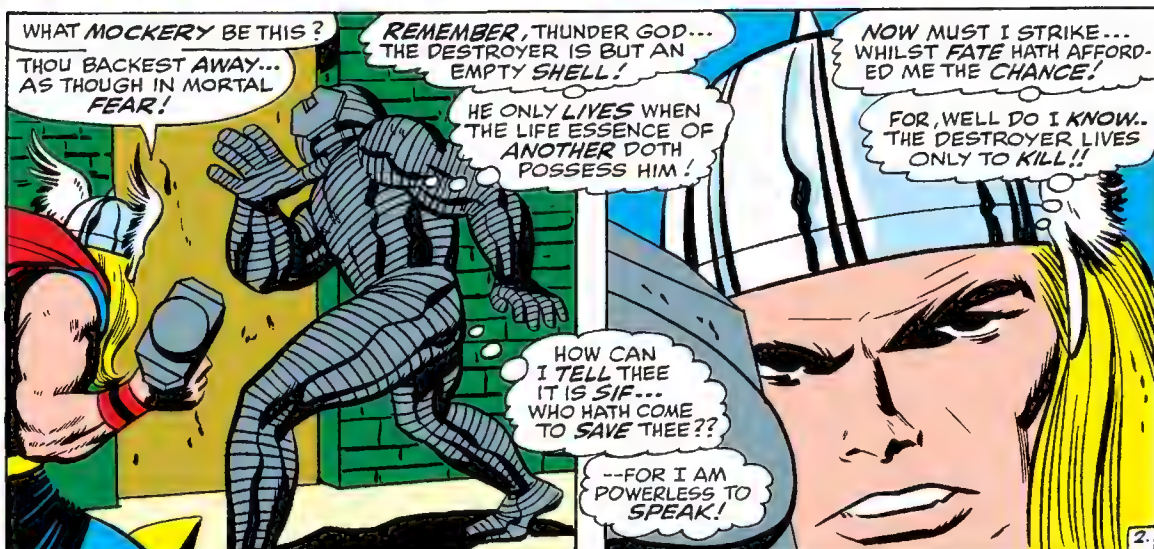
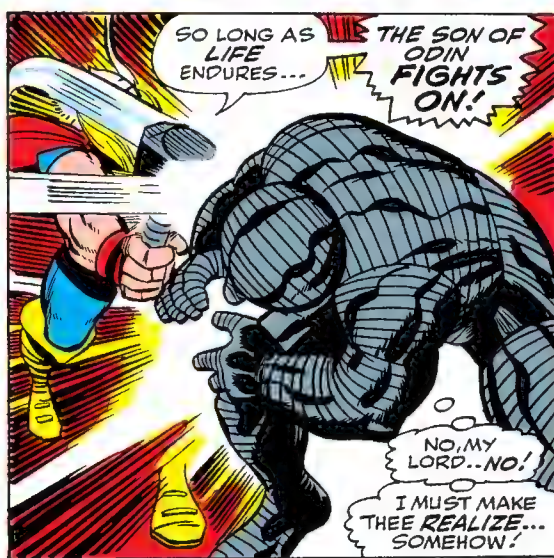
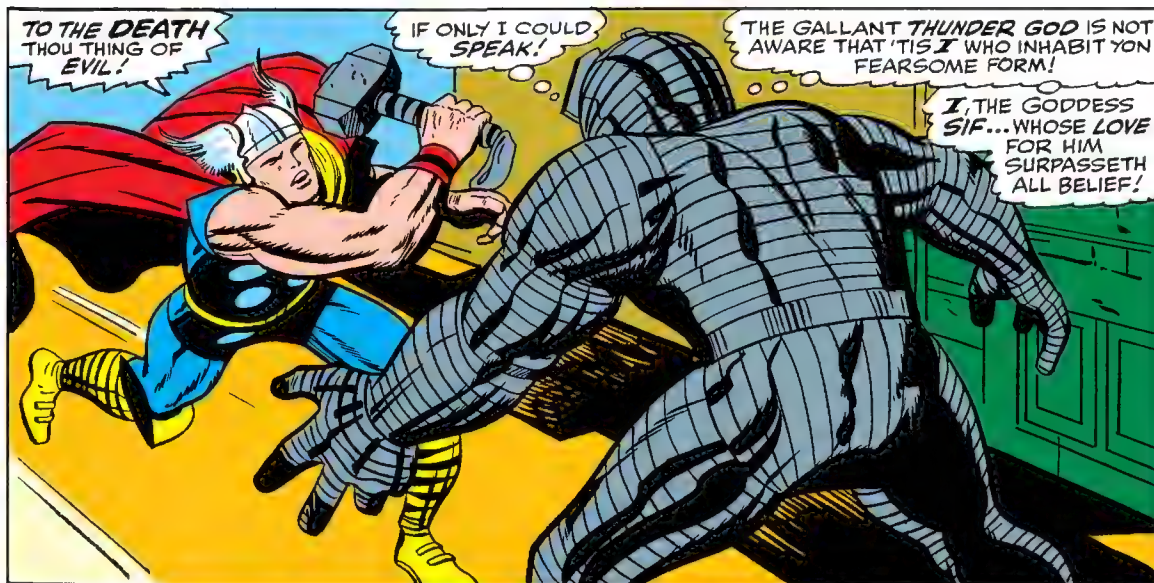
INSPIRED BY:
ASGARD!
ETERNAL!

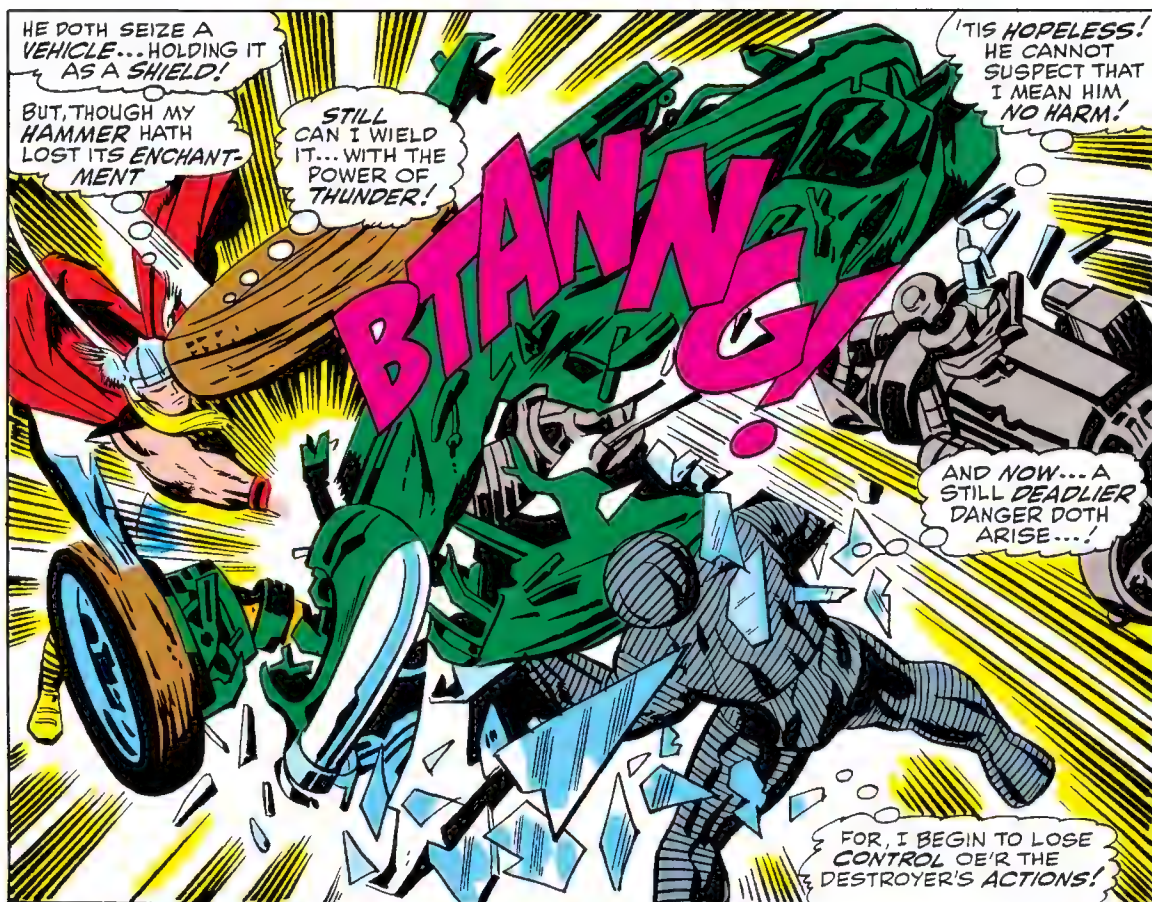
LET THE HEAVENS WEEP,
FOR IMPERIOUS ODIN
HATH STRIPPED THE ENCHANTED
POWER FROM HIS TRUE-BORN SON,
THE MIGHTY THOR! YET NOW, STILL
RESOLUTE, STILL UNAFRAID, STANDS
THE GOD OF THUNDER, FACING HIS
MOST INVINCIBLE FOE...THE UNLIVING
DESTROYER...AS YET UNAWARE
THAT THE SPIRIT OF SIF, HIS TRULY
BELOVED, IS GUIDING THE MONSTER
WHO STANDS BEFORE HIM

AND NOW,
FOR
BLUDGEONING
BATTLE
BEYOND
COMPARE...

BY THE GOLDEN
GATES OF ASGARD,
WE MOST EARNESTLY URGE
THEE, O KEEPER OF THE
FAITH...**READ ON!**







HE DOTH SEIZE A VEHICLE...HOLDING IT AS A SHIELD!

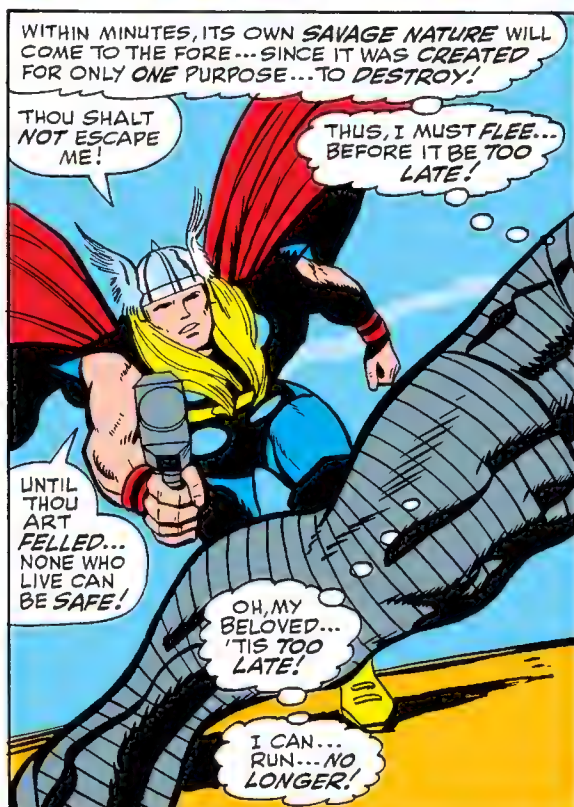
BUT, THOUGH MY HAMMER HATH LOST ITS ENCHANTMENT

STILL CAN I WIELD IT...WITH THE POWER OF THUNDER!

'TIS HOPELESS! HE CANNOT SUSPECT THAT I MEAN HIM NO HARM!

AND NOW...A STILL DEADLIER DANGER DOTH ARISE...!

FOR, I BEGIN TO LOSE CONTROL OE'R THE DESTROYER'S ACTIONS!



WITHIN MINUTES, ITS OWN SAVAGE NATURE WILL COME TO THE FORE...SINCE IT WAS CREATED FOR ONLY ONE PURPOSE...TO DESTROY!

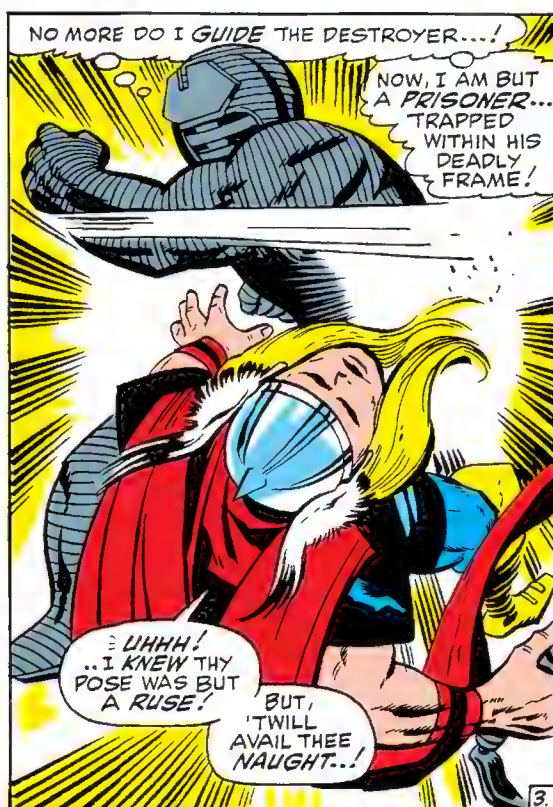
THOU SHALT NOT ESCAPE ME!

THUS, I MUST FLEE... BEFORE IT BE TOO LATE!

UNTIL THOU ART FELLED... NONE WHO LIVE CAN BE SAFE!

OH, MY BELOVED... 'TIS TOO LATE!

I CAN... RUN...NO LONGER!

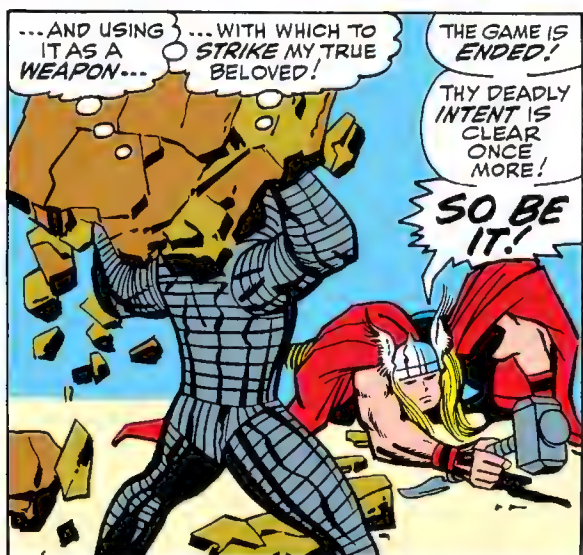
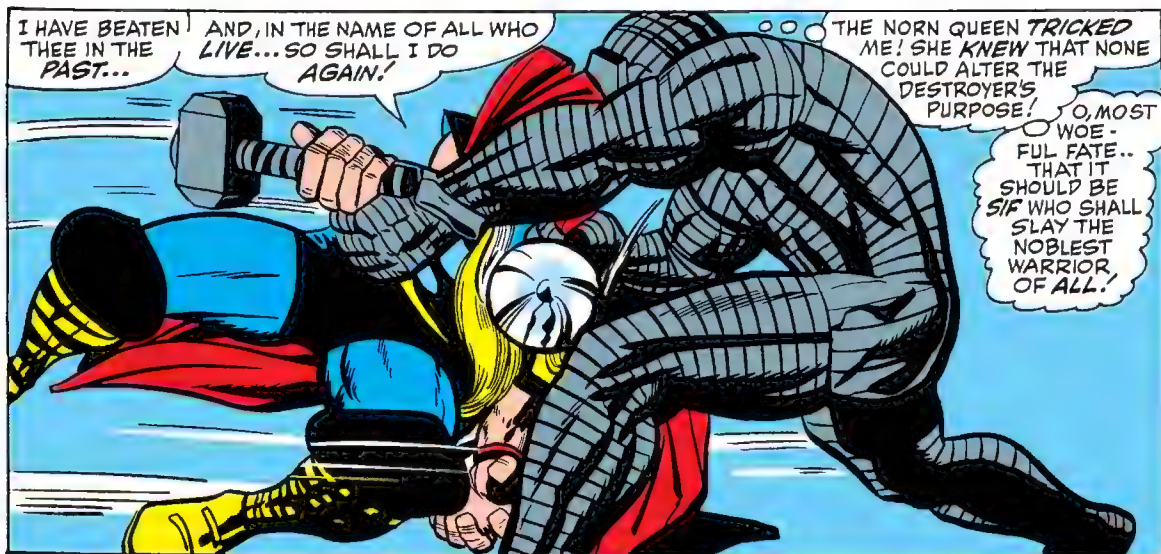


NO MORE DO I GUIDE THE DESTROYER...!

NOW, I AM BUT A PRISONER... TRAPPED WITHIN HIS DEADLY FRAME!

UHHH! ...I KNEW THY POSE WAS BUT A RUSE!

BUT, 'T'WILL AVAIL THEE NAUGHT...!



AND, AS THE UNEQUAL BATTLE RAGES, TWO PAIR OF BALEFUL, MERCILESS EYES OBSERVE THE CARNAGE WITH SAVAGE GLEE...

THE THUNDER GOD IS TRULY DOOMED!

DID I NOT PROMISE TO AID THEE, GOD OF EVIL?

SINCE TIME'S FIRST DAWNING, NEVER HATH LOKI SO FULLY RELISHED A MOMENT OF TRIUMPH!

FOR ARE WE NOT TRULY KINDRED SPIRITS...

BOTH THEE... AND THE QUEEN OF THE NORNS!



HOW WELL DID I TRICK THEE, GODDESS!

NOW, WHILST THY PHYSICAL FORM STANDS HELPLESS... DEVOID OF LIFE...

THE UNLIVING DESTROYER... NURTURED BY THINE OWN ASTRAL ESSENCE... SHALL SLAY THE ACCURSED THOR!

ALWAYS DID I DESPISE THEE! EVER HAVE I LOATHED THY BEAUTY... THY VALOR!

BUT NOW, THE VENGEANCE... AND THE TRIUMPH... ARE TRULY MINE!



SHE CAN NO LONGER HEAR THEE, ENCHANTED ONE!

BUT, WHAT OF BALDER! OUR TRIUMPH CANNOT BE COMPLETE WHILST HE DOTH LIVE!

BUT, HIS DEATH WOULD BE A WASTE... FOR HE DOTH PLEASE MINE EYES!

BRING THE PRISONER FORTH!



WHAT HAST THOU DONE TO THE MOTIONLESS SIF, UNSPEAKABLE ONE??

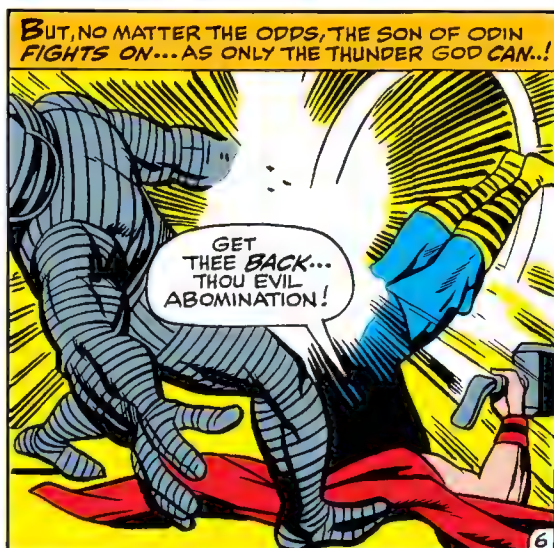
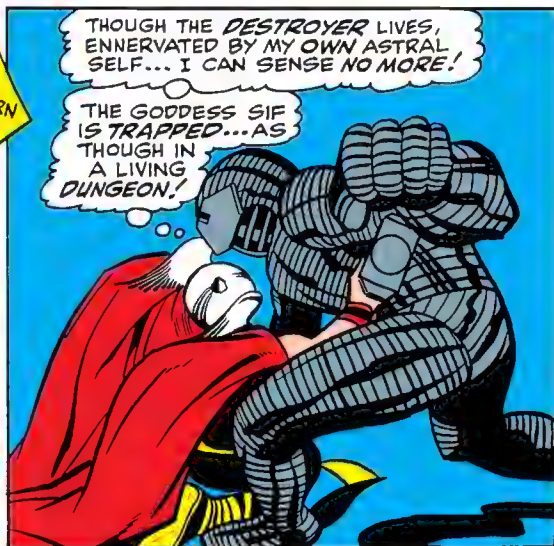
SAVE THY SCORN AND WRATH, BRAVE BALDER!

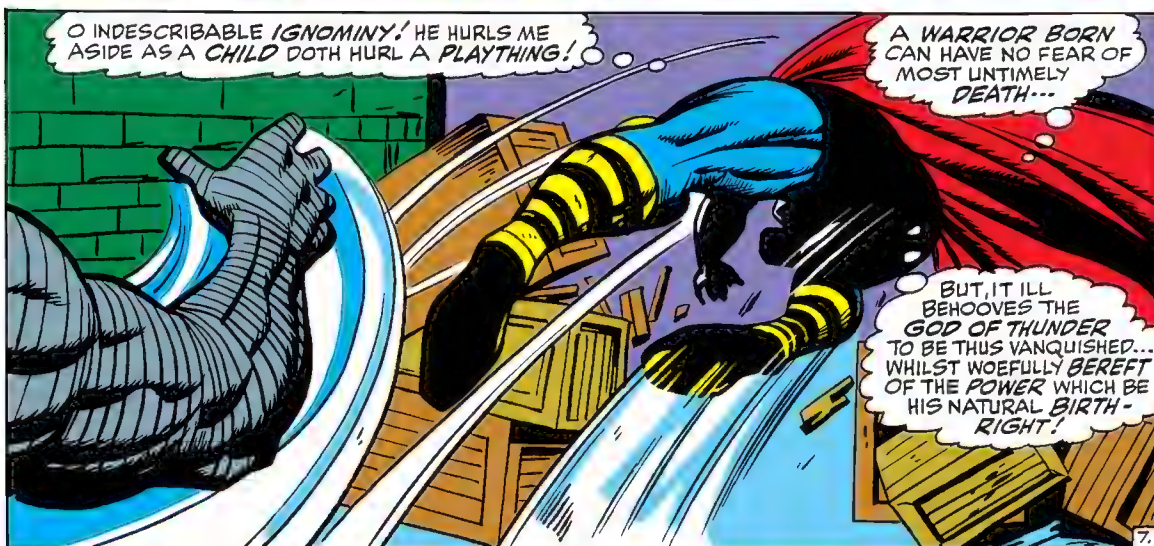
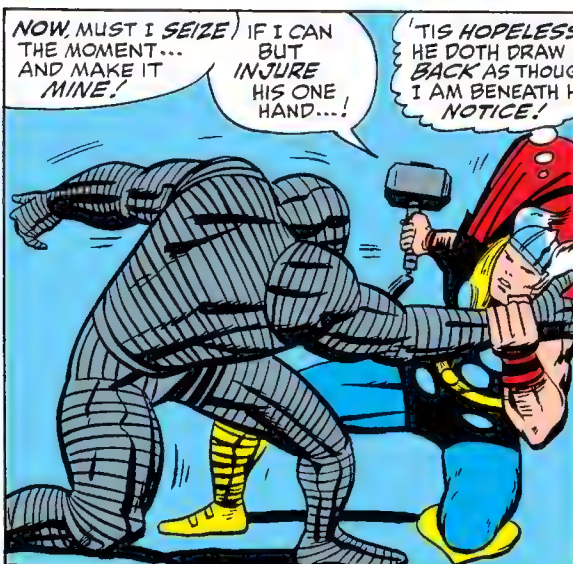
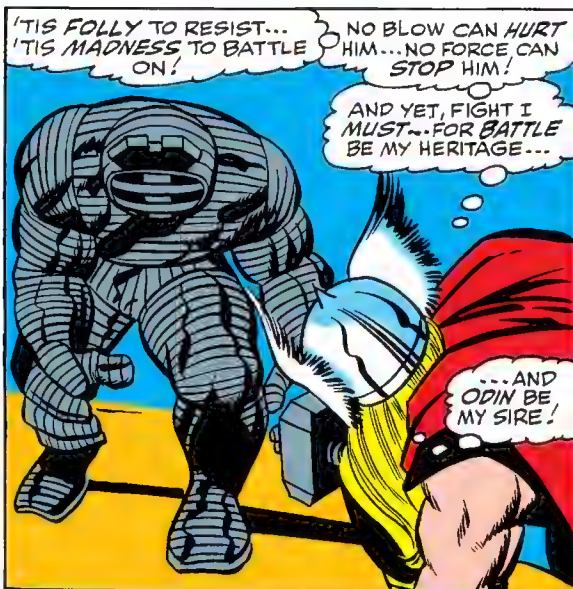
THE GODDESS STILL LIVES... AND MAY YET BE FREED... IF THOU WILT SERVE ME!

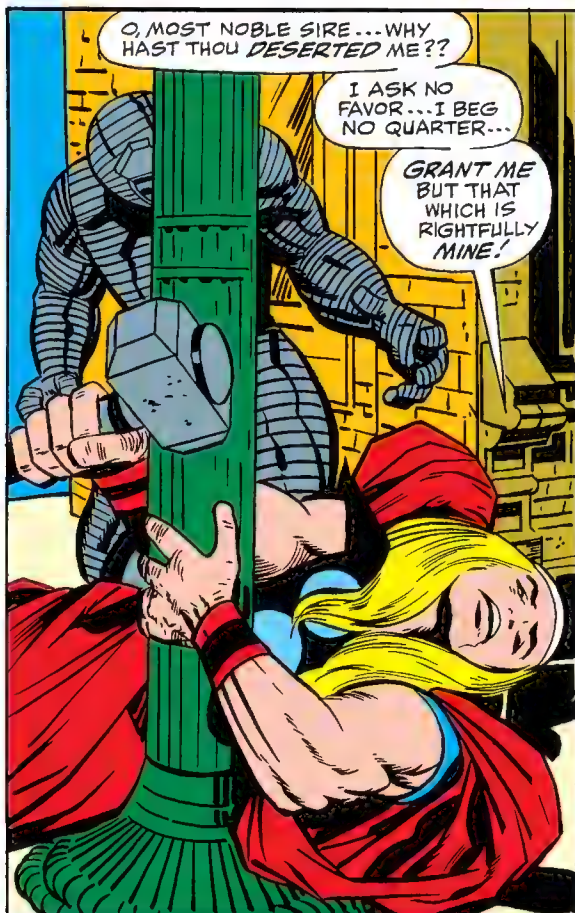
HOW SAY THEE?

BALDER SERVES NONE... SAVE ODIN!









O, MOST NOBLE SIRE... WHY HAST THOU *DESERTED* ME??

I ASK NO FAVOR... I BEG NO QUARTER...

GRANT ME BUT THAT WHICH IS RIGHTFULLY MINE!



'TIS NOT FOR MYSELF I ASK...

DEATH HOLDS NO TERROR FOR HIM WHOSE HEART BE PURE!

BUT I HAVE *PLEGGED* TO PROTECT MANKIND!

THOUGH THEY BE NOT WITHOUT FAULT... THEY MUST NE'ER BE *ABANDONED*!



...AND NE'ER SHALL THEY BE!

SO SPEAKS **THOR!**



BUT, OF WHAT AVAIL IS COURAGE? OF WHAT AVAIL IS GRIM RESOLVE... AGAINST A FOE WHO CANNOT BE DEFEATED??

MY FATHER! MY FATHER!

WHY HAST THOU *FORSAKEN* ME?

AND, EVEN AS THE AGONIZED IMMORTAL BEGINS TO TASTE THE BITTER DREGS OF FINAL DEFEAT...

AT LAST! THRU PATIENT SORCERY I HAVE SUCCEEDED IN REPLACING THE MISSING CRYSTAL OF ETERNAL VIEW!

HOW GOES THE BATTLE BELOW?

BATTLE, SIRE...??

OF COURSE! THINKEST THOU THE ALL-WISE HATH BEEN UNAWARE??

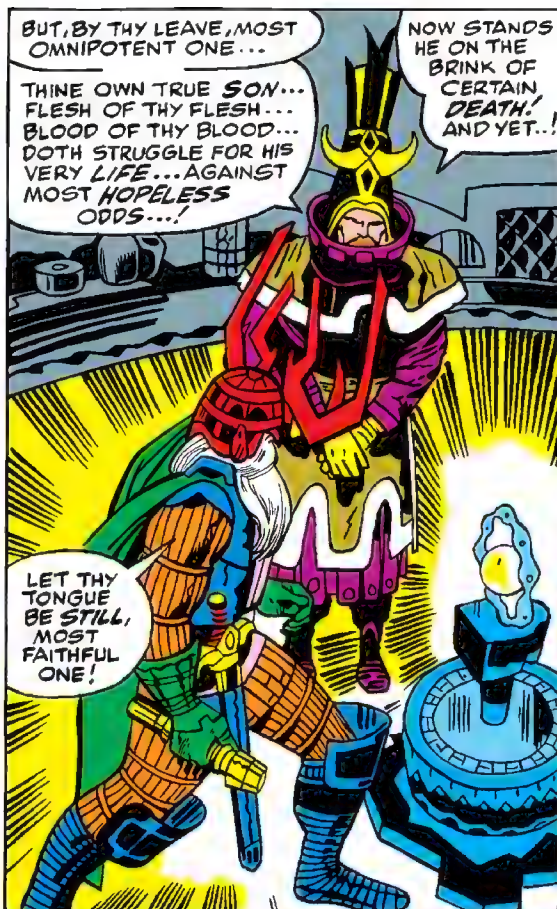


BUT, BY THY LEAVE, MOST OMNIPOTENT ONE...

THINE OWN TRUE SON... FLESH OF THY FLESH... BLOOD OF THY BLOOD... DOTHT STRUGGLE FOR HIS VERY LIFE... AGAINST MOST HOPELESS ODDS...!

NOW STANDS HE ON THE BRINK OF CERTAIN DEATH! AND YET...!

LET THY TONGUE BE STILL, MOST FAITHFUL ONE!



WELL DO I KNOW THOU HATH THOUGHT ME COLD...AND UNFEELING!

BUT, THERE WAS REGAL PURPOSE TO MY DEED!

FOR, THOR HAD LOST THE IMPERIAL ATTRIBUTE OF...TRUE HUMILITY!



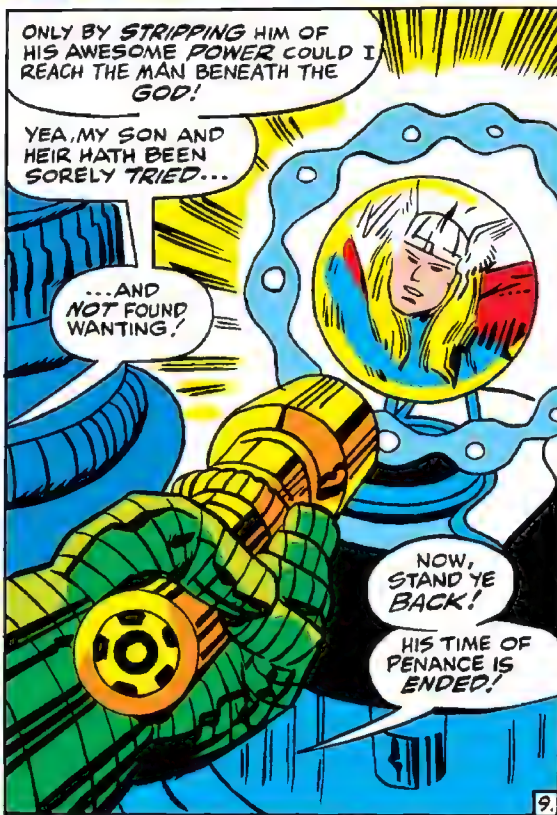
ONLY BY STRIPPING HIM OF HIS AWESOME POWER COULD I REACH THE MAN BENEATH THE GOD!

YEA, MY SON AND HEIR HATH BEEN SORELY TRIED...

...AND NOT FOUND WANTING!

NOW, STAND YE BACK!

HIS TIME OF PENANCE IS ENDED!

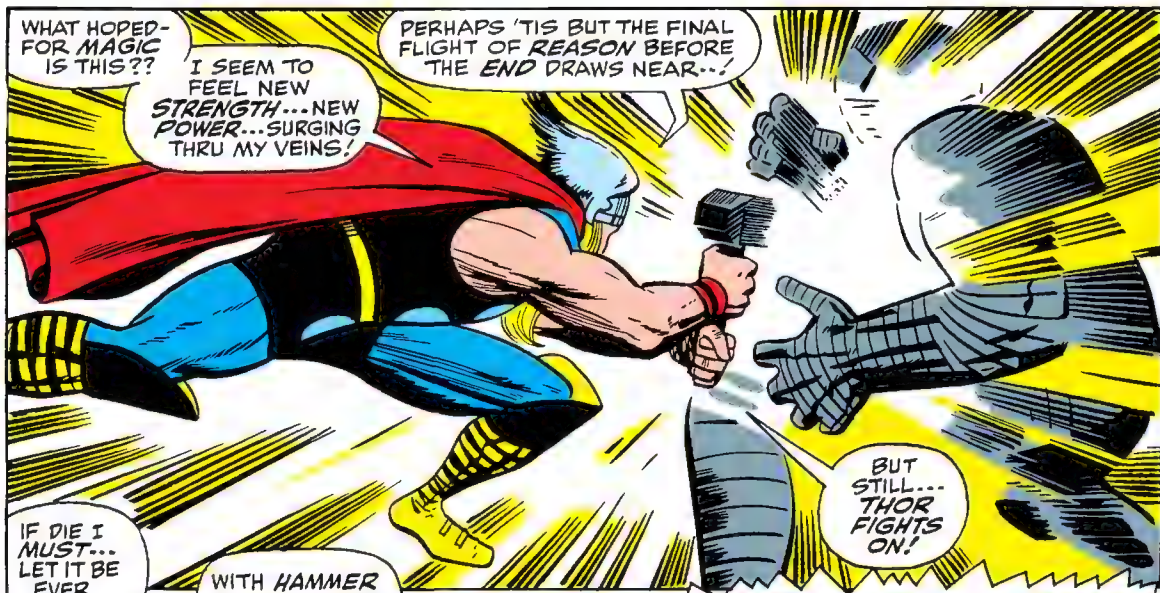


FROM THIS MOMENT
FORTH...TIS MY WISH
SUPREME....

THOR BE
**THUNDER
GOD**
ONCE MORE!

I HAVE
SPOKEN!





WHAT HOPED-
FOR MAGIC
IS THIS??

I SEEM TO
FEEL NEW
**STRENGTH...NEW
POWER...SURGING
THRU MY VEINS!**

PERHAPS 'TIS BUT THE FINAL
FLIGHT OF REASON BEFORE
THE **END** DRAWS NEAR...

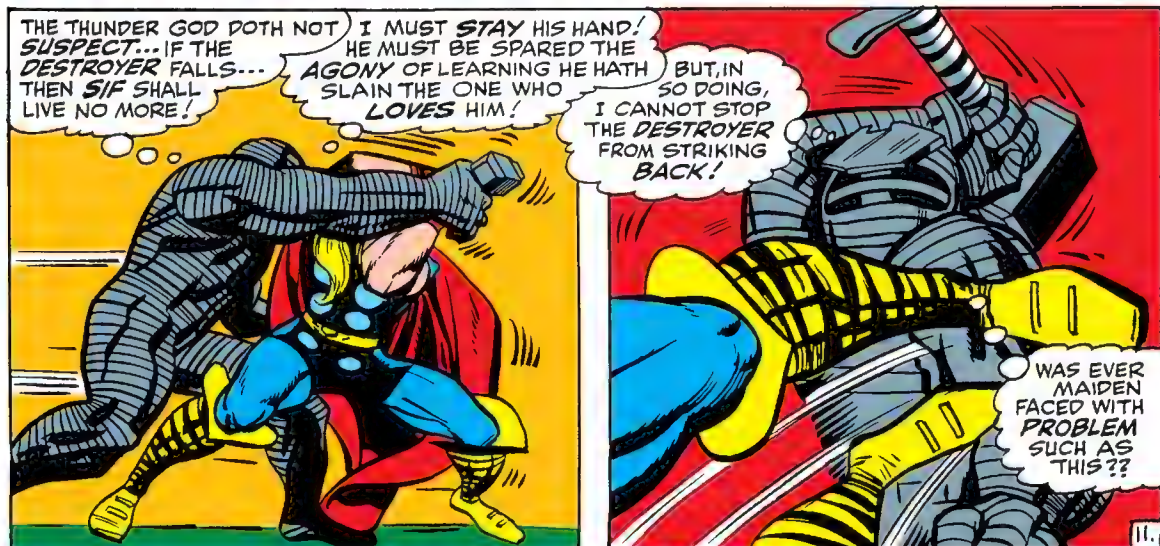
BUT
STILL...
**THOR
FIGHTS
ON!**

IF DIE I
MUST...
LET IT BE
EVER
THUS...

WITH HAMMER
IN HAND...AND
THE CRY OF
BATTLE ON MY
LIPS!



**FOR
ASGGAARD!**

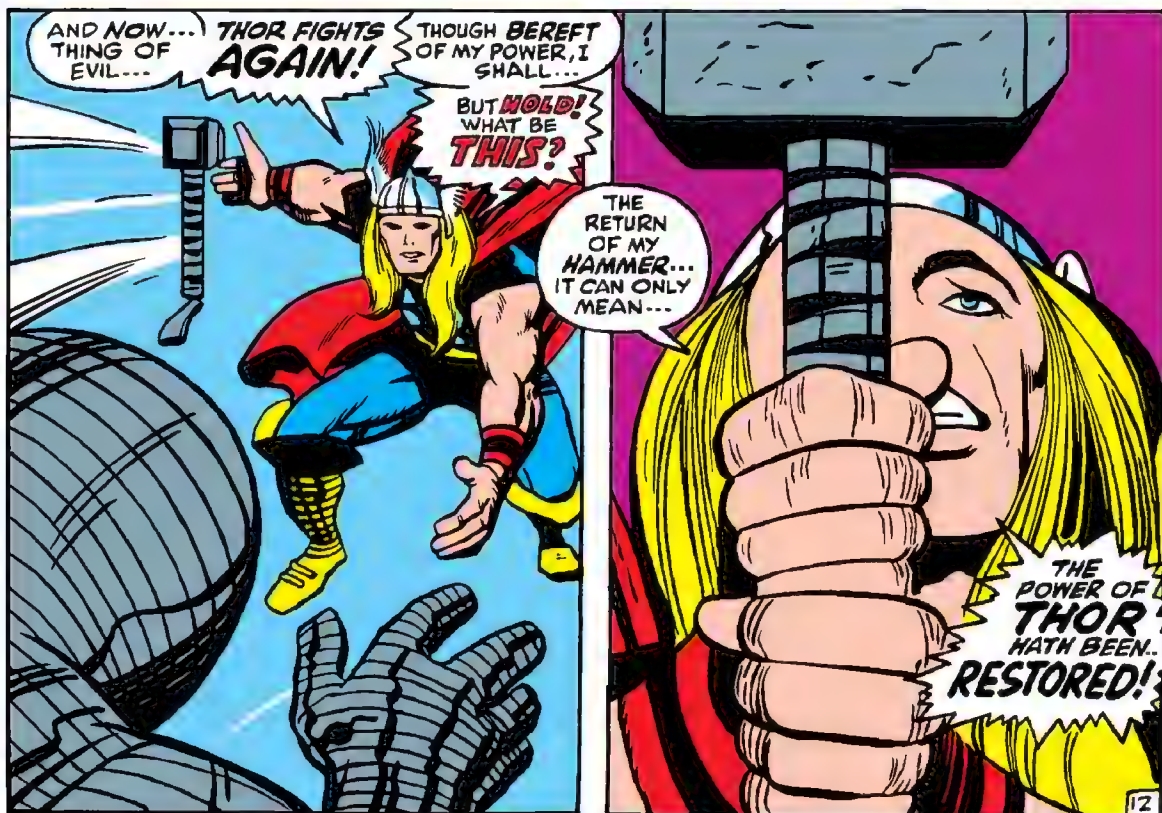
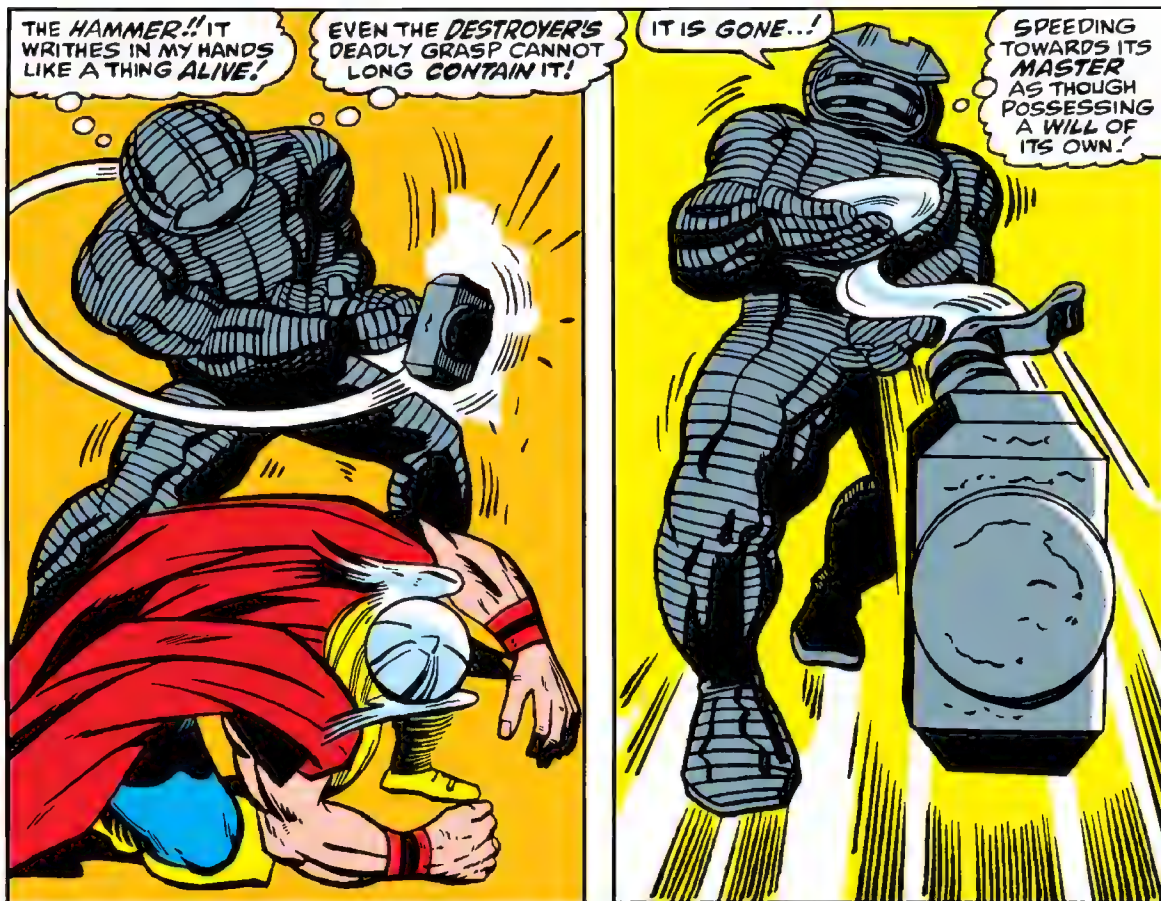


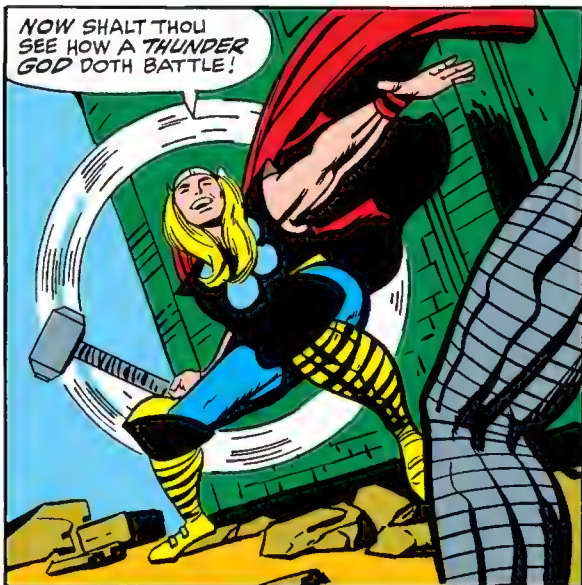
THE THUNDER GOD DOETH NOT
**SUSPECT... IF THE
DESTROYER FALLS...
THEN SIF SHALL
LIVE NO MORE!**

I MUST **STAY** HIS HAND!
HE MUST BE SPARED THE
AGONY OF LEARNING HE HATH
SLAIN THE ONE WHO
LOVES HIM!

BUT, IN
SO DOING,
I CANNOT STOP
THE **DESTROYER**
FROM STRIKING
BACK!

WAS EVER
MAIDEN
FACED WITH
PROBLEM
SUCH AS
THIS??





NOW SHALT THOU
SEE HOW A **THUNDER**
GOD DOTH BATTLE!

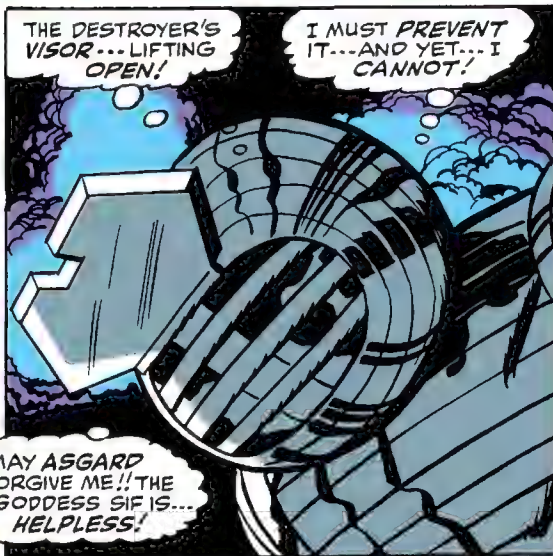


NO, MY LORD...I
BEG THEE...**NO!** 'TIS
SIF THOU...**UHHH!**



WHAT IS THIS
SOMBER FEELING
OF **DREAD** WHICH
FILLS MY SOUL??

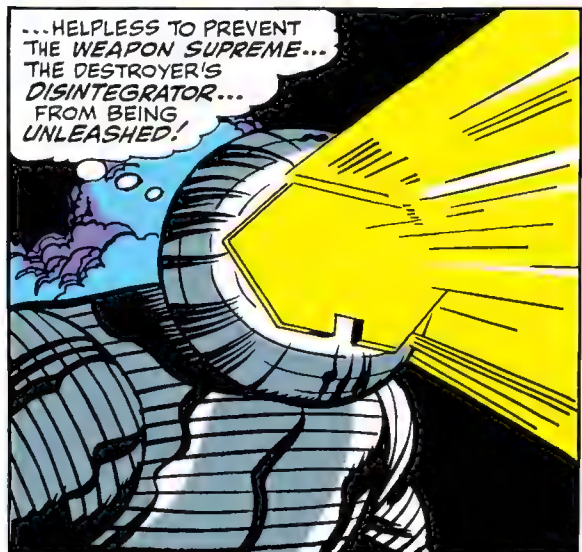
...THIS UNSHAKABLE OMEN
OF **DEATH** IMPENDING...THE
DEATH OF HIM WHOM MY
HEART DOTH CHERISH
MOST!



THE DESTROYER'S
VISOR... LIFTING
OPEN!

I MUST PREVENT
IT...AND YET... I
CANNOT!

MAY ASGARD
FORGIVE ME!! THE
GODDESS SIF IS...
HELPLESS!



...HELPLESS TO PREVENT
THE **WEAPON SUPREME**...
THE DESTROYER'S
DISINTEGRATOR...
FROM BEING
UNLEASHED!

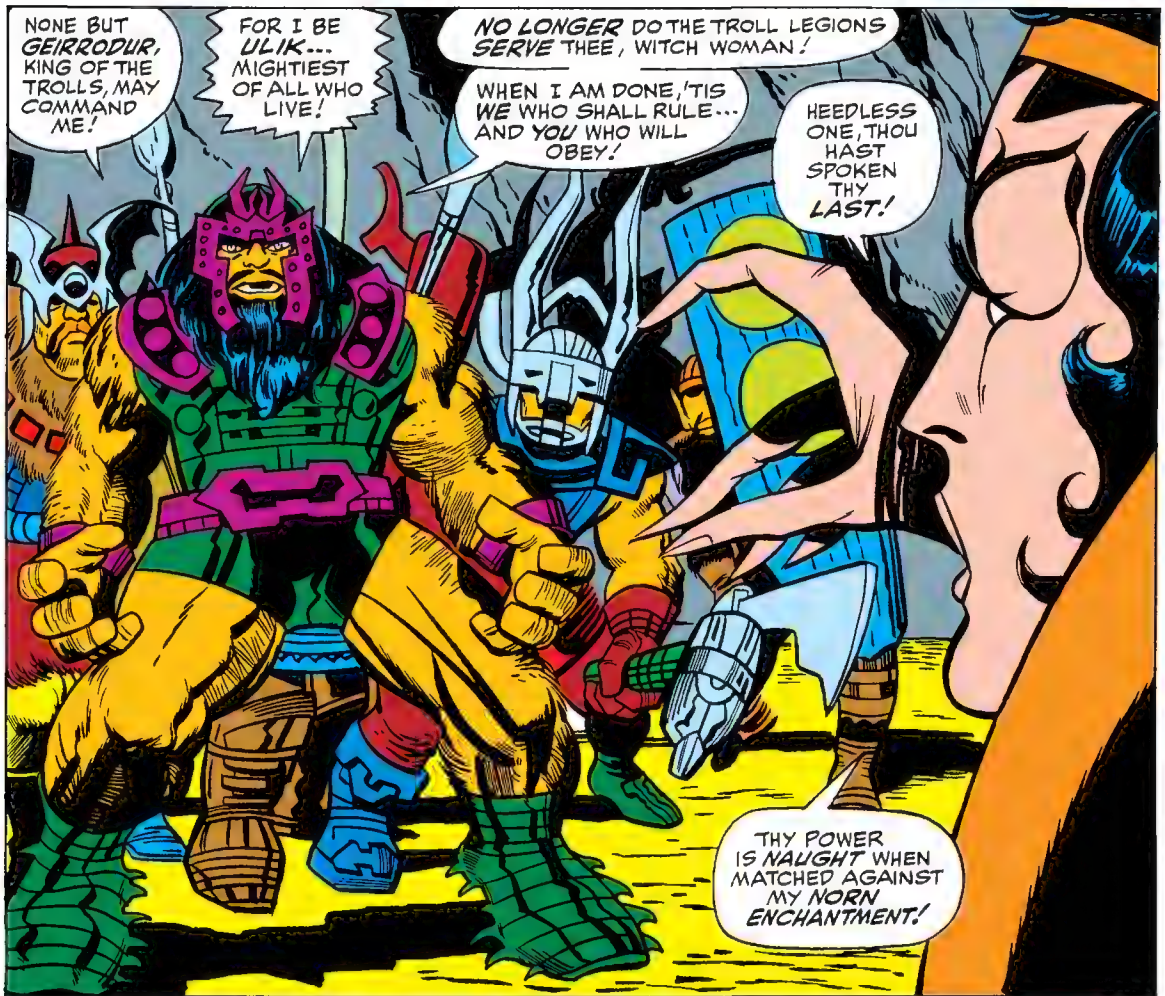


WE CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF WHAT MAY COME
NEXT... SO BEAR WITH US, WE PRAY, AS WE
RETURN TO THE REALM OF **KARNILLA**, QUEEN OF
THE NORNS ...

YOU!! YOU
DARE
COME HERE...
TO THREATEN
ME?!!

COME NO CLOSER!
LOKI COMMANDS!

I DARE
ANYTHING!



NONE BUT
GEIRRODUR,
KING OF THE
TROLLS, MAY
COMMAND
ME!

FOR I BE
ULIK...
MIGHTIEST
OF ALL WHO
LIVE!

NO LONGER DO THE TROLL LEGIONS
SERVE THEE, WITCH WOMAN!

WHEN I AM DONE, 'TIS
WE WHO SHALL RULE...
AND YOU WHO WILL
OBEY!

HEEDLESS
ONE, THOU
HAST
SPOKEN
THY
LAST!

THY POWER
IS NAUGHT WHEN
MATCHED AGAINST
MY **NORN**
ENCHANTMENT!



...AS THOU NOW
SHALT LEARN...

TO THINE
EVERLASTING
REGRET!

BUT...WHAT
MADNESS IS
THIS??

THOU ARE STILL
STANDING!!



GAZE AT ME,
MY QUEEN...
AND TREMBLE!

ONCE WAS **ULIK**
MIGHTIEST OF ALL THE
TROLLS...IN THE DAYS
WHEN **THOR** DID BEST
ME!

BUT,
NOW...

**ULIK IS
MIGHTIEST OF
ALL WHO
LIVE!**



THE TROLL WIZARDS WHO SERVE KING GEIRODUR HAVE ARMED ME WITH ENCHANTMENT YET STRONGER THAN THINE!

QUEEN OF THE NORN, I SEE THEE TREMBLE!

CAN IT BE THOU KNOWEST FEAR AT LAST?

NOW IS ULIK TRULY SUPREME!

NOW SHALL KARNILLA MEET HER END!



BUT, ALL BE NOT YET LOST!
FREE ME... AND THE LADY SIF, AS WELL... AND BALDER'S SKILL SHALL COME TO THINE AID!

I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!

I BREAK THE SPELL UPON THY BONDS!



HAVE I THY WORD? IF ULIK BE VANQUISHED, THOU SHALT MENACE ASGARD NEVERMORE!

WHAT?? VANQUISH ULIK??!

TRULY, THOU ART BEREFT OF REASON!!



UPON THEE WILL I TEST MY METTLE... WHILE WAITING FOR THE GREATEST PRIZE OF ALL... THE ACCURSED THOR!

STRIKE AS THOU WILT!! BALDER STANDS FAST!!



AND, SPEAKING OF THE GOD OF THUNDER...

ONLY MY GODLY POWER... MY GODLY SPEED... COULD HAVE SAVED ME FROM THE DESTROYER'S BLAST!



BUT NOW... HE HATH FOLLOWED ME... INTO YON BLIND ALLEY...

WHERE E'EN MY SPEED CAN AVAIL ME NAUGHT!



THUS, 'TIS THE FINAL CONFRONTATION AT LAST!

...FROM WHICH ONLY ONE MAY EMERGE... ALIVE!!

NEXT:
"THE WRATH OF THE WARRIOR!"



THE
MIGHTY

THOR

APPROVED
BY THE
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THE WRATH OF THE WARRIOR!

THE MIGHTY THOR!™

THE DILEMMA OF DR. BLAKE!

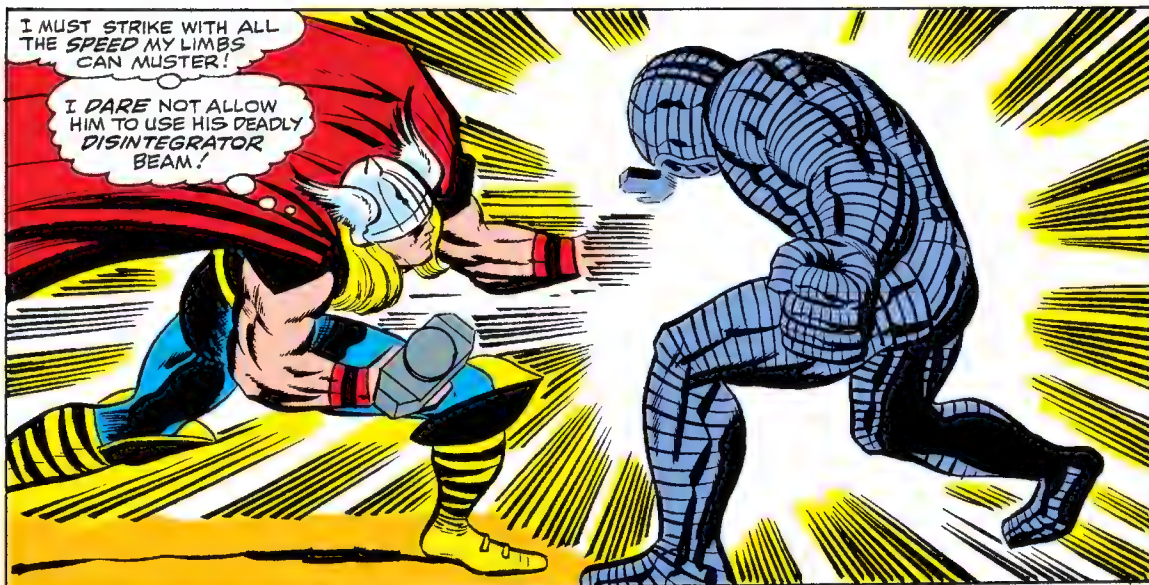
FOR
ASGARD,
I STRIKE!

HIS FULL
GODLY POWER
RETURNED TO HIM AT
LAST, THE MIGHTY THOR
HAMMERS HIS WAY OUT OF
THE ALLEY IN WHICH THE
DREADED
DESTROYER
HAD CORNERED HIM...
AND NOW, THEY
PREPARE FOR
THE FINAL
CONFRONTATION...!

LET MARVELDOM REJOICE! THAT WHICH AWAITS
US HATH BEEN GARNISHED IN GRANDEUR BY
STAN (THE MAN) LEE and JACK (KING) KIRBY

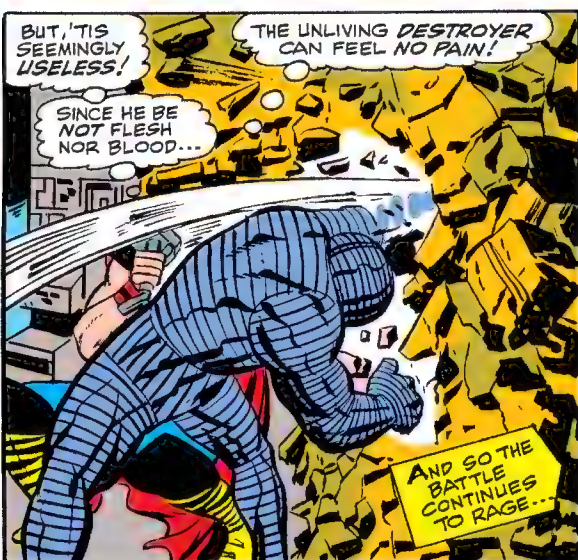
EPICALLY EMBELLISHED BY:
VINCE COLLETTA

LEGIBLY LETTERED BY:
SAM ROSEN



I MUST STRIKE WITH ALL THE SPEED MY LIMBS CAN MUSTER!

I DARE NOT ALLOW HIM TO USE HIS DEADLY DISINTEGRATOR BEAM!

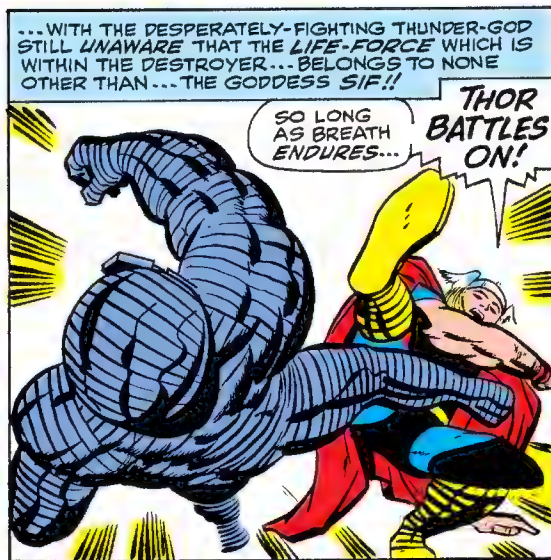


BUT, 'TIS SEEMINGLY USELESS!

THE UNLIVING DESTROYER CAN FEEL NO PAIN!

SINCE HE BE NOT FLESH NOR BLOOD...

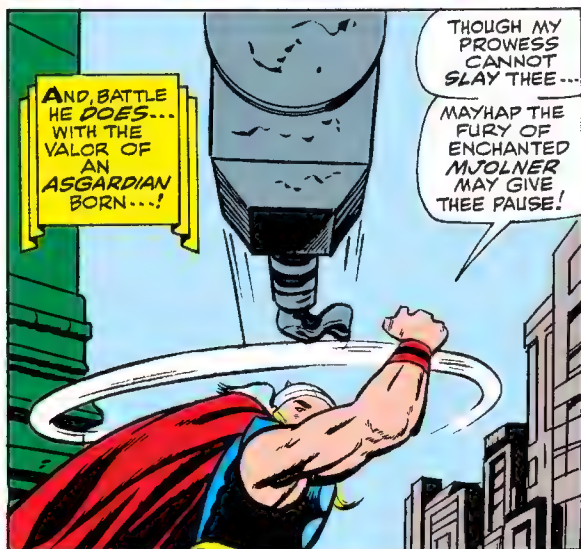
AND SO THE BATTLE CONTINUES TO RAGE...



...WITH THE DESPERATELY-FIGHTING THUNDER-GOD STILL UNAWARE THAT THE LIFE-FORCE WHICH IS WITHIN THE DESTROYER... BELONGS TO NONE OTHER THAN ...THE GODDESS SIF!!

SO LONG AS BREATH ENDURES...

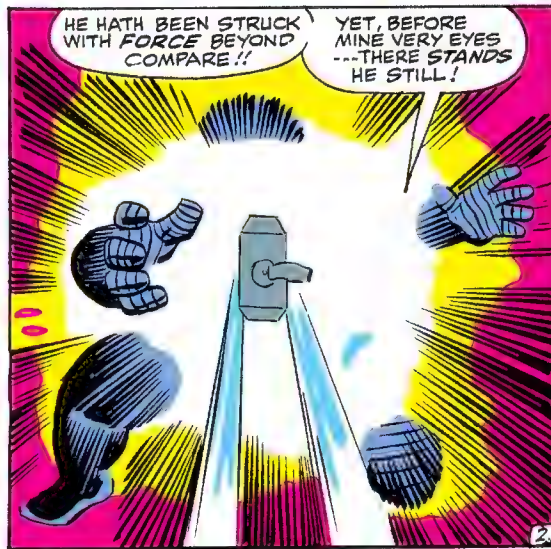
THOR BATTLES ON!



AND, BATTLE HE DOES... WITH THE VALOR OF AN ASGARDIAN BORN...!

THOUGH MY PROWESS CANNOT SLAY THEE...

MAYHAP THE FURY OF ENCHANTED MYOLNER MAY GIVE THEE PAUSE!



HE HATH BEEN STRUCK WITH FORCE BEYOND COMPARE!!

YET, BEFORE MINE VERY EYES ...THERE STANDS HE STILL!

HAVING NO LIFE
THAT BE HIS OWN,
THE **DESTROYER**
MUST BE PROPELLED
BY THE LIFE FORCE
OF ANOTHER!

WOULD THAT I
MIGHT KNOW
WHOSE SPIRIT
FORM NOW LIVES
WITHIN YON
MONSTER!

BUT, PERHAPS 'TIS BEST THAT
THE SON OF ODIN **NOT SUSPECT**
THAT THE STUNNING **SIF** HERSELF
HAD BEEN **TRICKED** INTO BRING-
ING THE **DESTROYER** TO LIFE...
IN AN EFFORT TO **SAVE** HER
BELOVED...NOT DREAMING SHE
WOULD THEN BE **UNABLE** TO
CONTROL HIM!

DARE I
BELIEVE
MINE
EYES?

HE DOTH
SEIZE THE
FATEFUL
MALLET...!

SINCE HE BE A CREATION OF THE
ALMIGHTY ODIN, HE TOO HATH THE
POWER TO WIELD THE INVINCIBLE
HAMMER!

BUT, E'EEN IN THE HANDS OF THE
DESTROYER, MIGHTY **MJOLNER**
NE'ER WILL STRIKE ITS GODLY
MASTER!

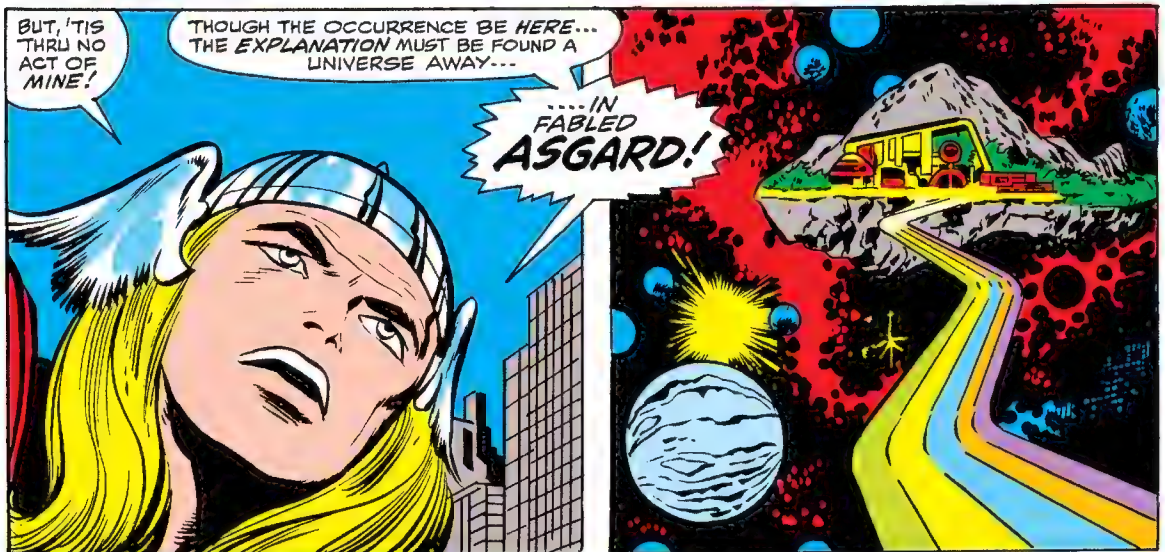
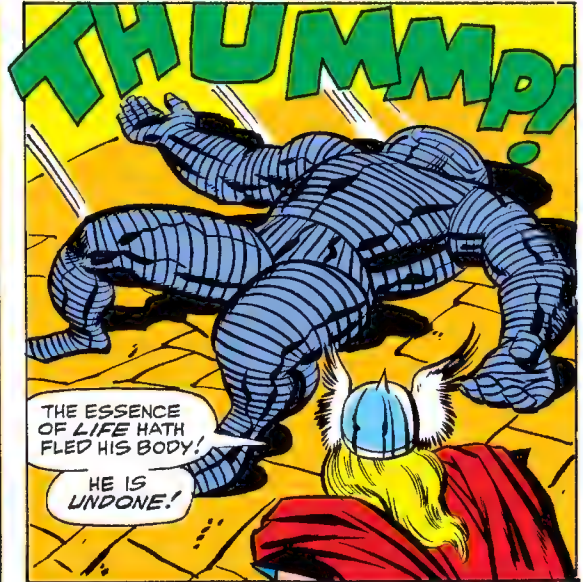
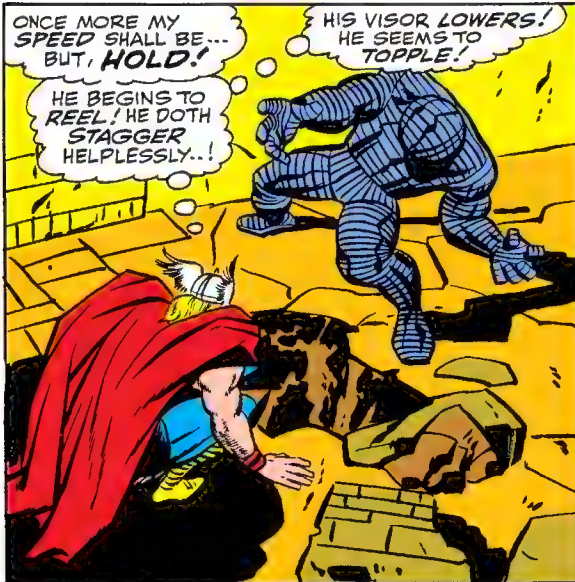
THUS, IT BURIES
ITSELF **INSTEAD**,
WITHIN THE GROUND
BENEATH MY FEET!

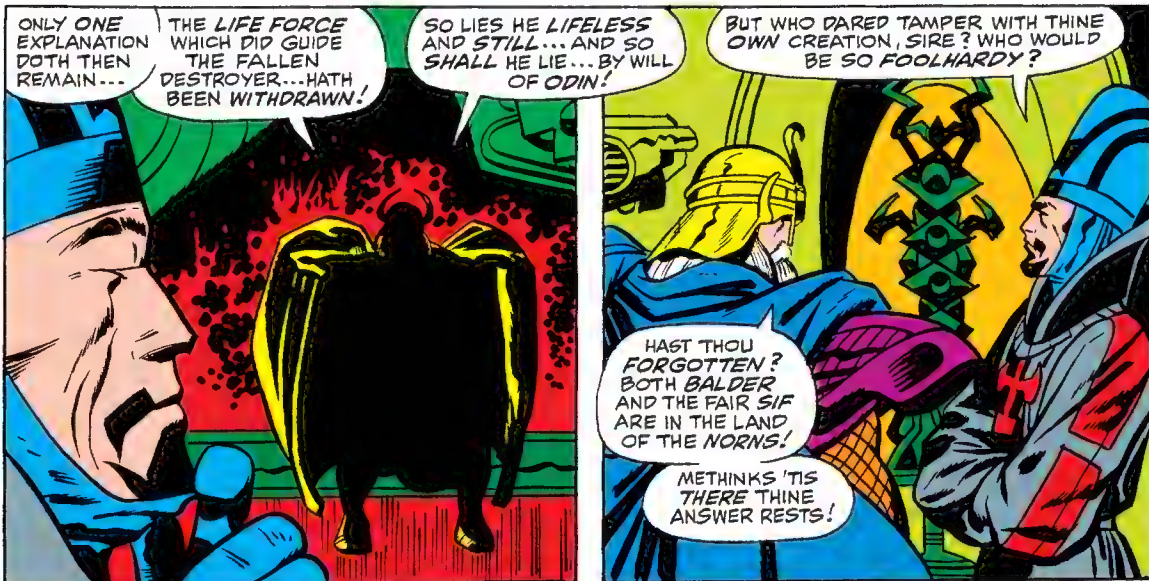
AND NOW...
TO THE
DEATH!!

HIS
VISOR
DOTH
RISE...!

HE HATH
REMEMBERED
AGAIN...

...HIS POWER
TO **DISINTEGRATE**
A FOE!





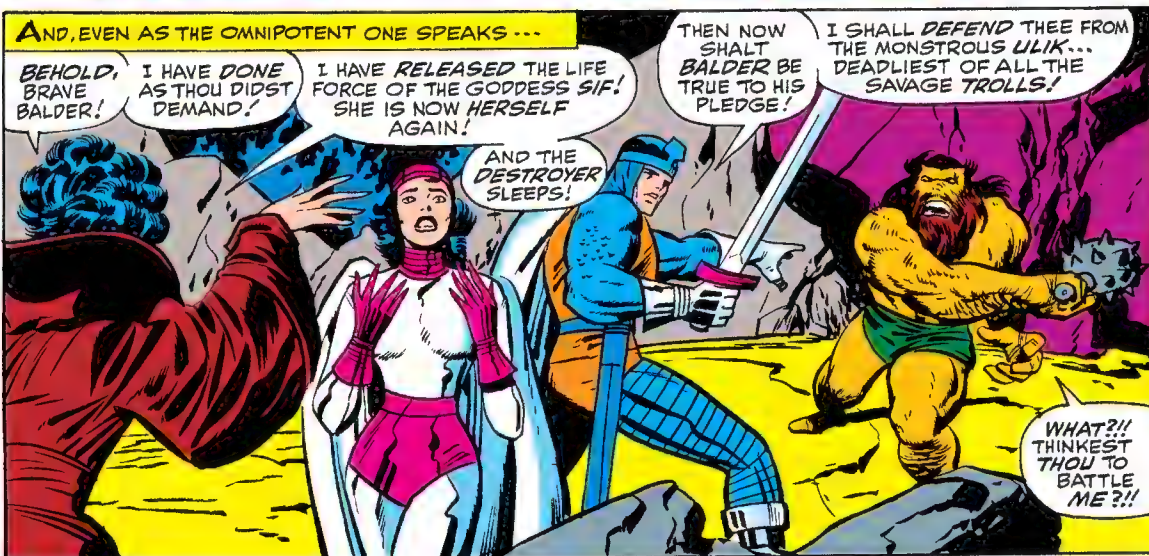
ONLY ONE EXPLANATION DO TH THEN REMAIN... THE LIFE FORCE WHICH DID GUIDE THE FALLEN DESTROYER...HATH BEEN WITHDRAWN!

SO LIES HE LIFELESS AND STILL... AND SO SHALL HE LIE... BY WILL OF ODIN!

BUT WHO DARED TAMPER WITH THINE OWN CREATION, SIRE? WHO WOULD BE SO FOOLHARDY?

HAST THOU FORGOTTEN? BOTH BALDER AND THE FAIR SIF ARE IN THE LAND OF THE NORNS!

METHINKS 'TIS THERE THINE ANSWER RESTS!



AND, EVEN AS THE OMNIPOTENT ONE SPEAKS ...

BEHOLD, BRAVE BALDER!

I HAVE DONE AS THOU DIDST DEMAND!

I HAVE RELEASED THE LIFE FORCE OF THE GODDESS SIF! SHE IS NOW HERSELF AGAIN!

AND THE DESTROYER SLEEPS!

THEN NOW SHALT BALDER BE TRUE TO HIS PLEDGE!

I SHALL DEFEND THEE FROM THE MONSTROUS ULIK... DEADLIEST OF ALL THE SAVAGE TROLLS!

WHAT?! THINKST THOU TO BATTLE ME?!!



NOT EVEN THOR CAN STAND AGAINST MY NEW-FOUND MIGHT!

POWERFUL AS I WAS IN DAYS GONE BY... ULIK BE STRONGER THAN EVER NOW!

BALDER... WAIT!

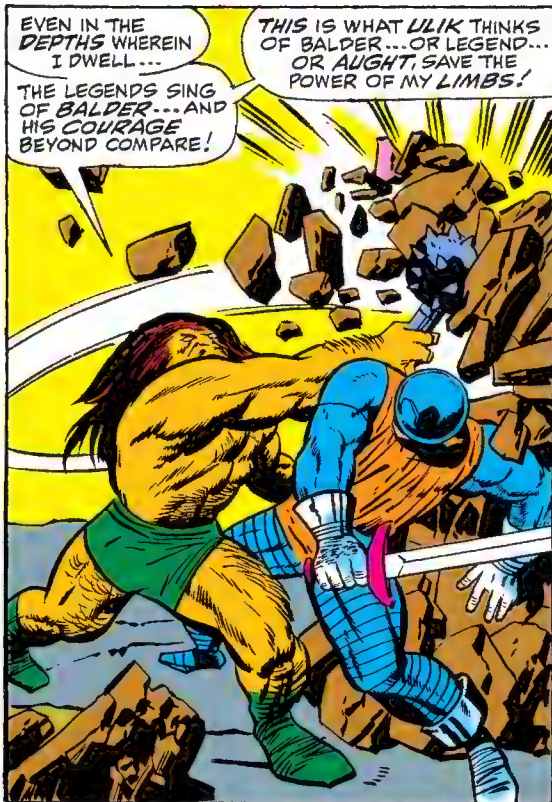
YOU CANNOT BATTLE HIM ALONE...!

SILENCE, YOU FOOL! LET THEM BE!

IF BALDER STOPS HIM NOT... OUR OWN LIVES ARE FORFEIT!

STAND YE BACK!

THE FEARS ARE THINE... THE CHALLENGE MINE!





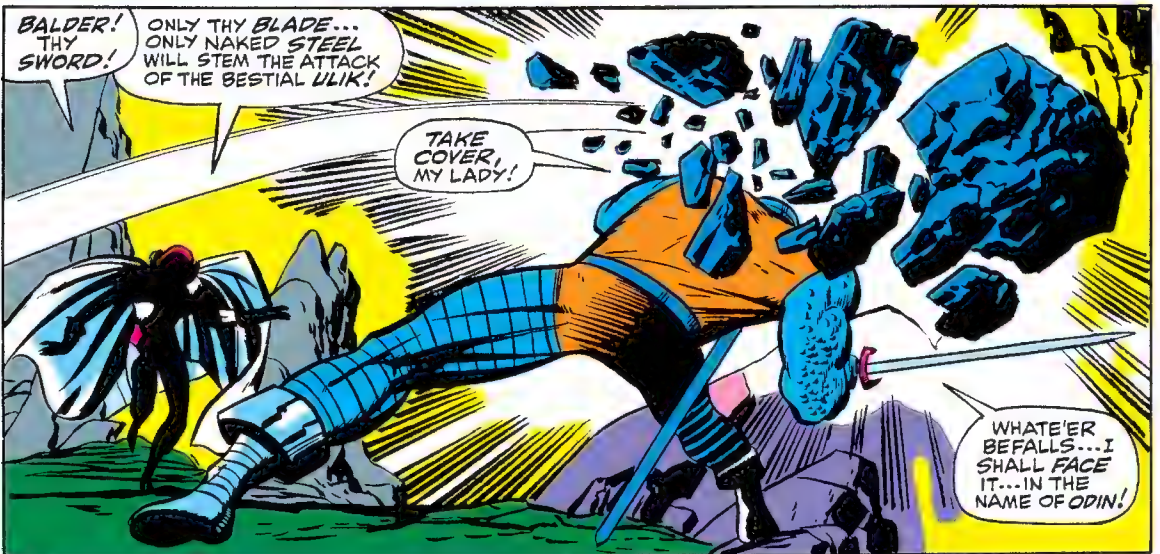
IF THAT
BE THY
MIGHTIEST
BLOW...

IF THAT BE
THE POWER
OF BALDER...

THEN, KNOW
THOU THIS,
ASGARDIAN...



BY THE
HAND OF
ULIK,
THOU ART
AS GOOD AS
SLAIN!



BALDER!
THY
SWORD!

ONLY THY BLADE...
ONLY NAKED STEEL
WILL STEM THE ATTACK
OF THE BESTIAL ULIK!

TAKE
COVER,
MY LADY!

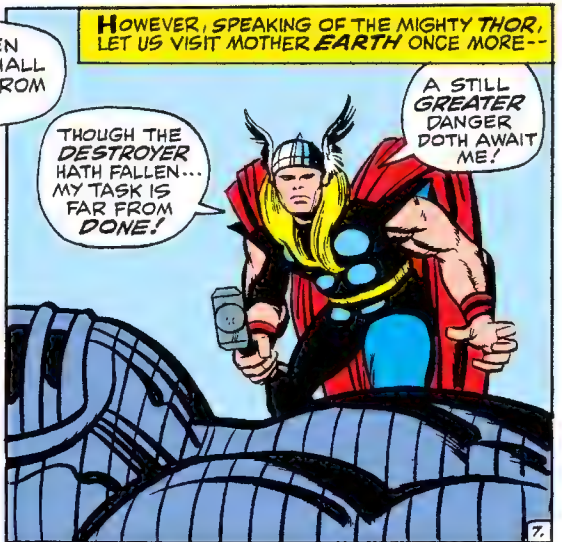
WHATE'ER
BEFALLS...I
SHALL FACE
IT...IN THE
NAME OF ODIN!



ODIN...
HA!!

AFTER THOU ART SLAIN...
AND THE ACCURSED THOR
AS WELL...

NOT EVEN
ODIN SHALL
BE SAFE FROM
ULIK!

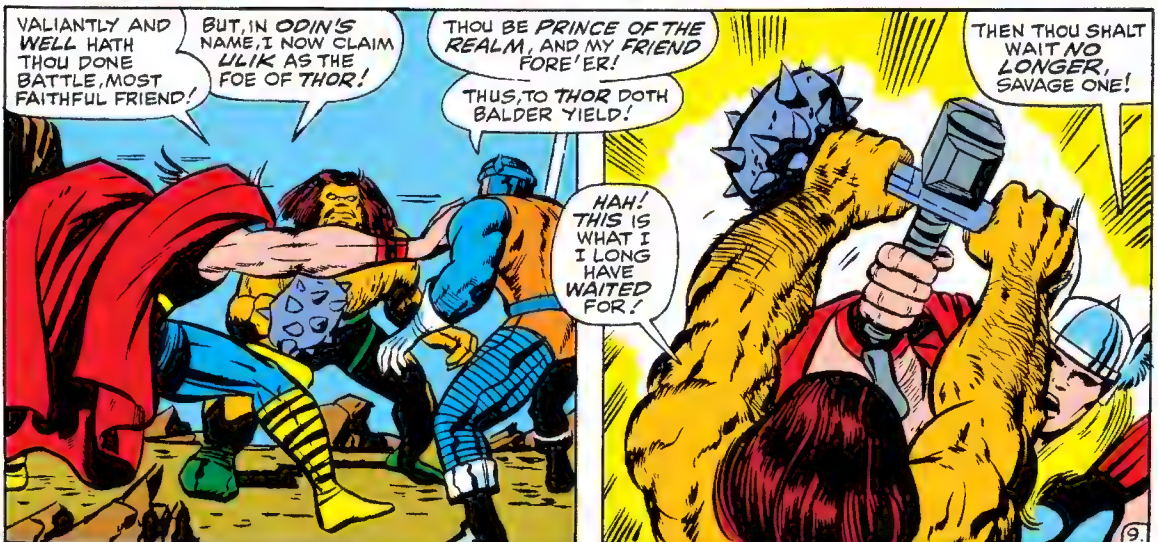
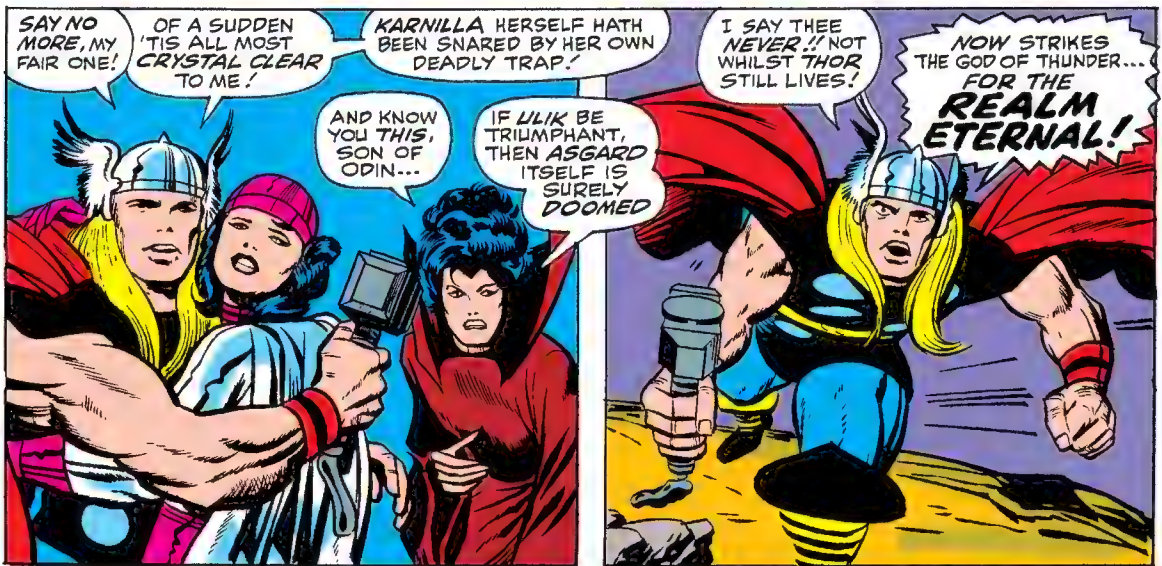
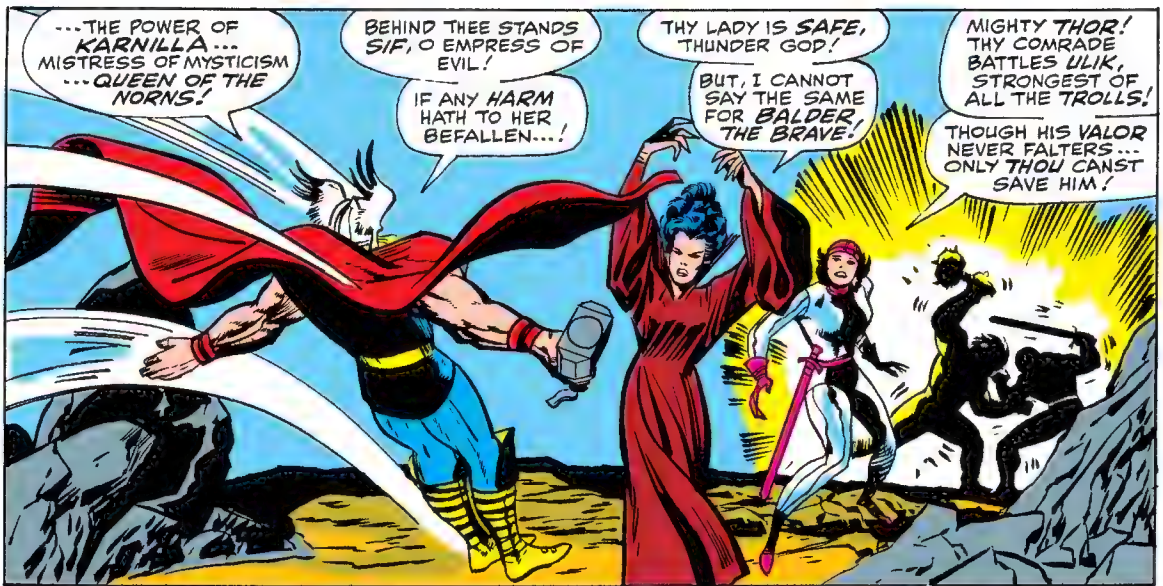


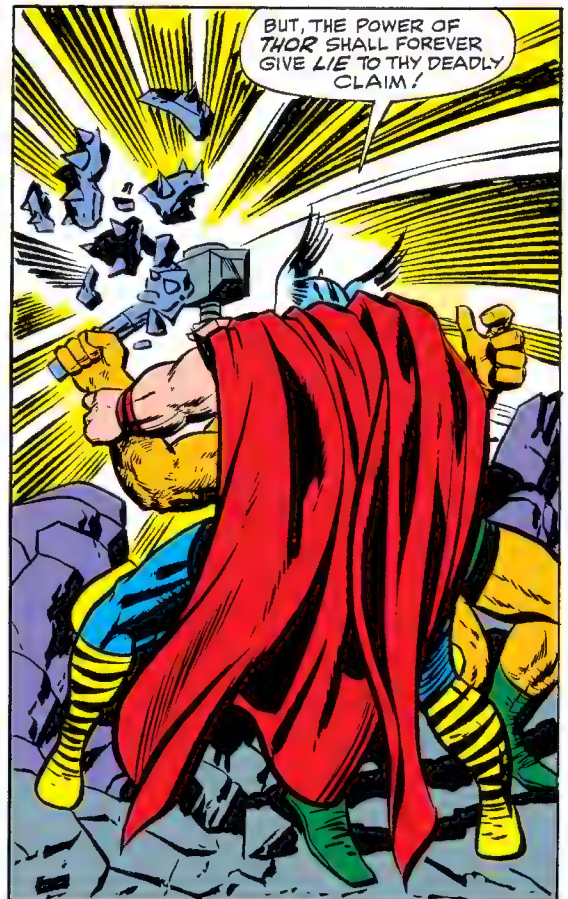
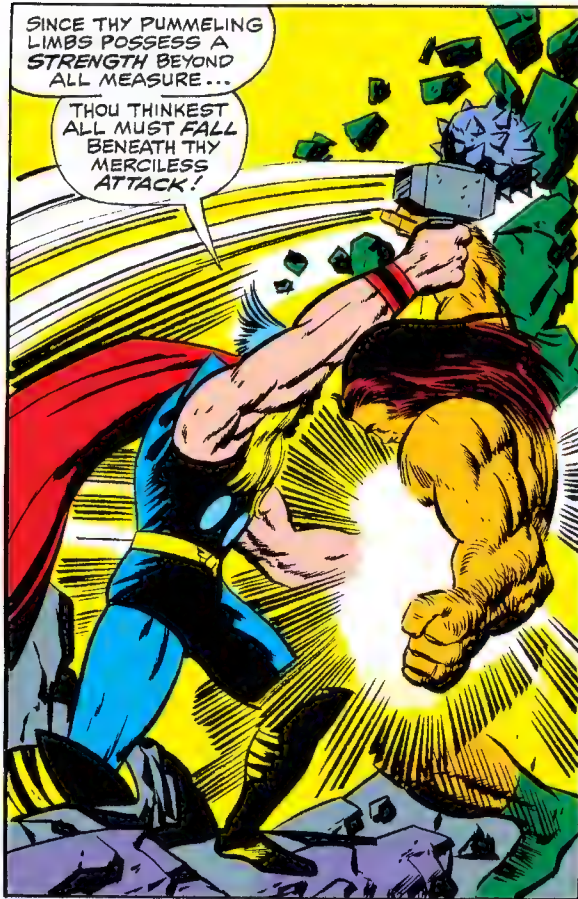
HOWEVER, SPEAKING OF THE MIGHTY THOR,
LET US VISIT MOTHER EARTH ONCE MORE--

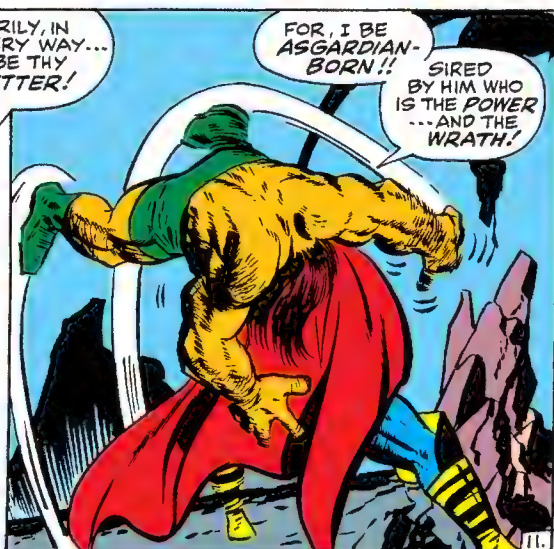
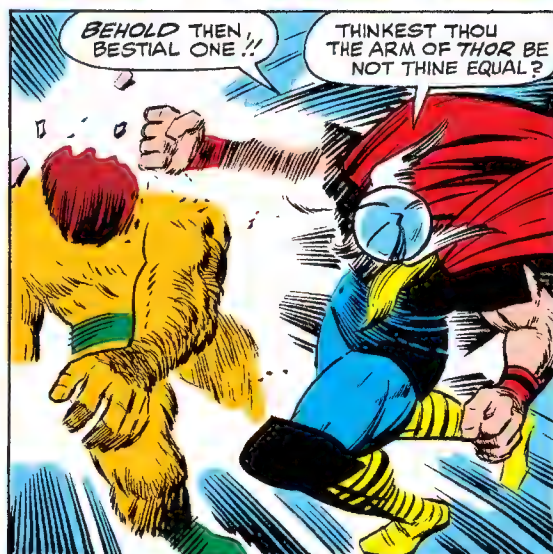
THOUGH THE
DESTROYER
HATH FALLEN...
MY TASK IS
FAR FROM
DONE!

A STILL
GREATER
DANGER
DOTH AWAIT
ME!











AND ULIK THE TROLL IS LOWLY-BORN...!

...WITH NAUGHT TO LOSE...AND A WORLD TO GAIN!

MINE EARS! ...NEVER HAVE THEY BEEN DEALT SO CRUEL A BLOW!



HAH! NOBLE THOR HEEDS THE RULES OF GALLANT COMBAT!

BUT ULIK IS A SAVAGE! ULIK IS A TROLL! ULIK FIGHTS TO WIN... BY ANY MEANS!

WHEN VICTORY BE MINE...NONE WILL QUESTION HOW IT HATH BEEN ACHIEVED!

I MUST NOT FALL!

I MUST NOT HEED... THE AWESOME PAIN!

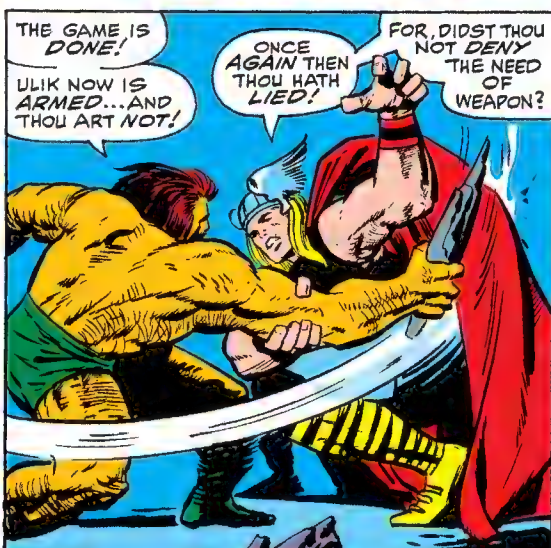
AND NOW, ASGARDIAN... THE END IS COME!



THE END INDEED!

THINKEST THOU THE SON OF ODIN WILT NOT FIGHT ON?

IT MATTERS NOT!

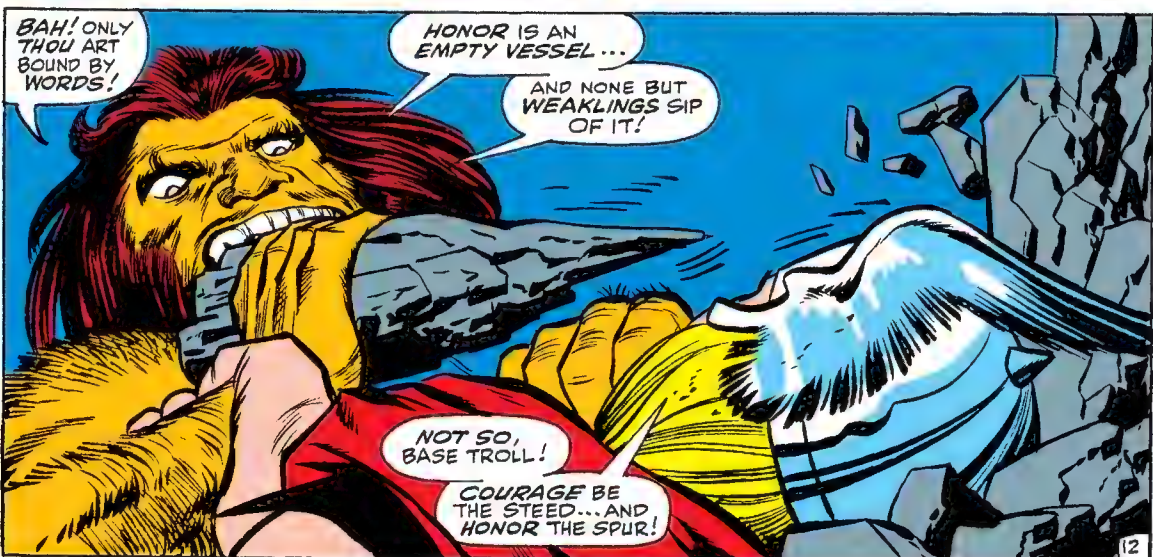


THE GAME IS DONE!

ULIK NOW IS ARMED...AND THOU ART NOT!

ONCE AGAIN THEN THOU HATH LIED!

FOR, DIDST THOU NOT DENY THE NEED OF WEAPON?



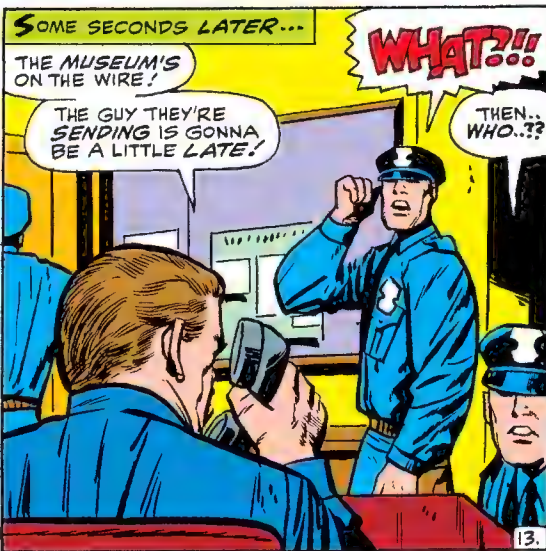
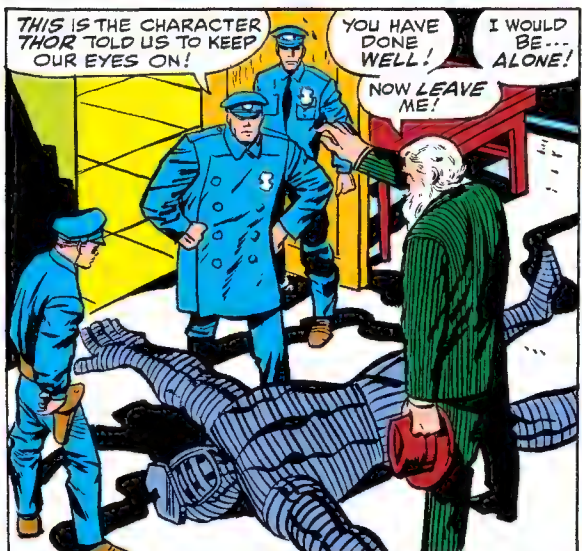
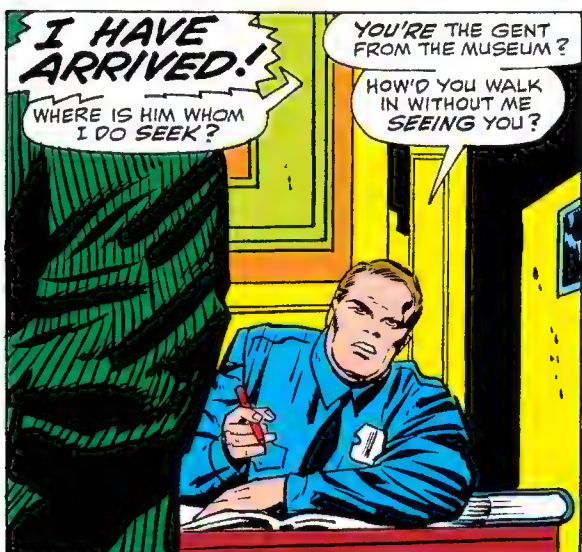
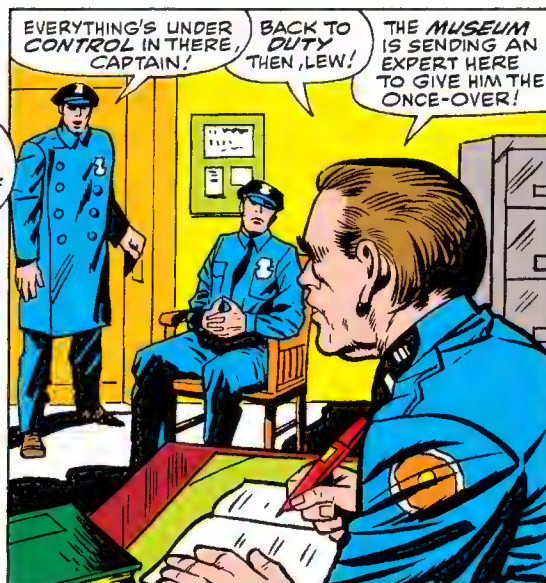
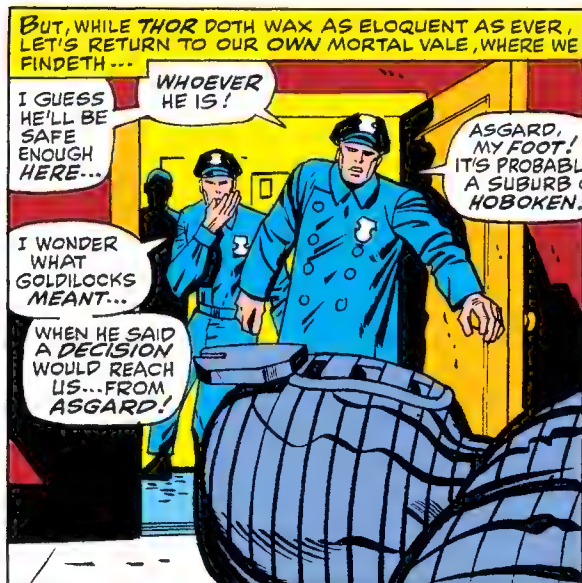
BAH! ONLY THOU ART BOUND BY WORDS!

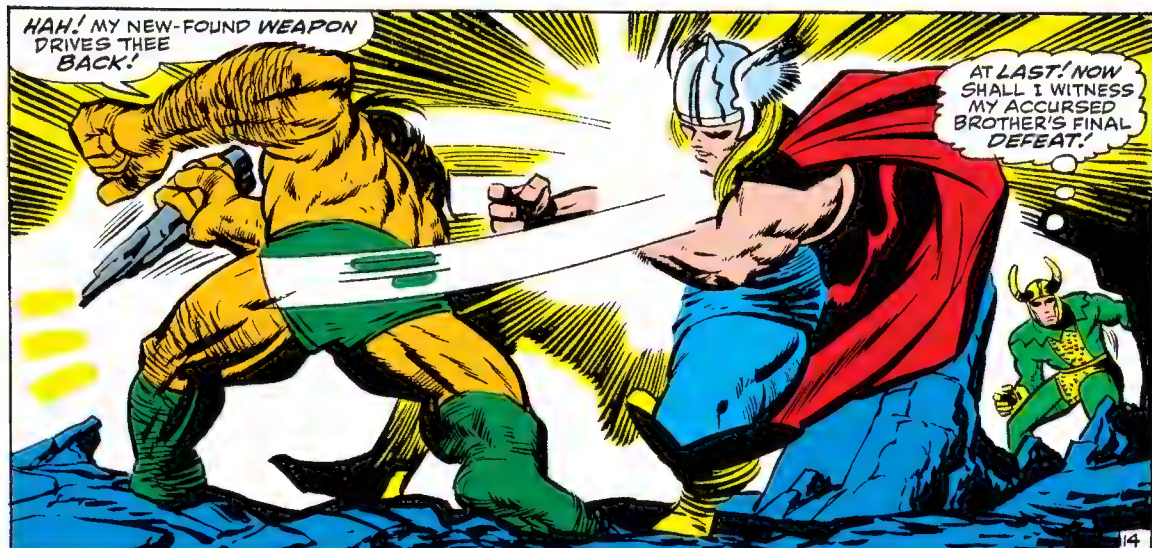
HONOR IS AN EMPTY VESSEL ...

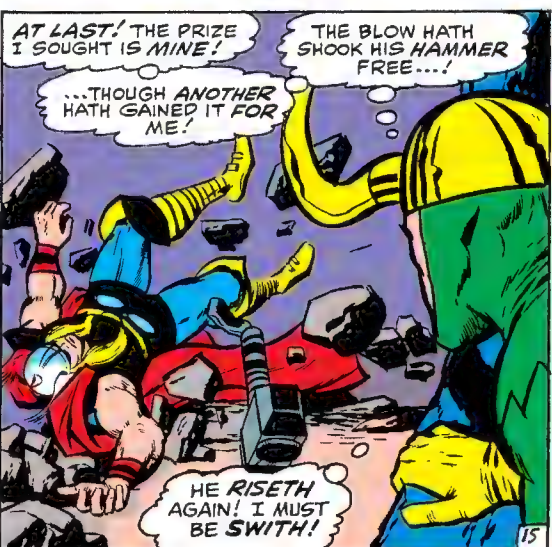
AND NONE BUT WEAKLINGS SIP OF IT!

NOT SO, BASE TROLL!

COURAGE BE THE STEED...AND HONOR THE SPUR!









THE MANIACAL FRENZY OF THINE ATTACK DID MAKE ME STUMBLE!

BUT, THE THUNDER GOD SHALL STUMBLE... NO MORE!!

MY MOST MIGHTY BLOW...

SERVED ONLY ...TO ANGER THEE...



AY! AND THE WRATH OF THOR BE SECOND TO NONE...

SAVE ONLY HIM WHOM I CALL... FATHER!

ARHHH!



TOO HARD DID MINE ARM STRIKE!

THE BLOW HATH SHATTERED YON STONE WALL...!

HURLING ULIK INTO THE BOTTOMLESS ABYSS OF SHADOWS!

...FROM WHICH NONE WHO LIVE... HAVE E'ER RETURNED!

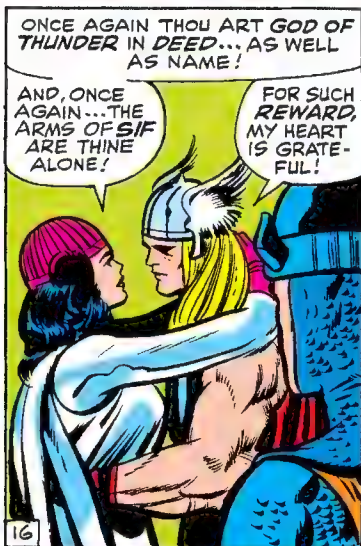


NOW STAND I REPENTENT!

'TIS MOST UNFITTING THAT A SOVEREIGN'S SON INDULGE HIMSELF IN SUCH UNSEEMLY RAGE!

TILL TIME ITSELF BE ENDED... THE MINSTRELS SHALL SING OF THIS DAY!

MY LORD... THOU WERT MAGNIFICENT!



ONCE AGAIN THOU ART GOD OF THUNDER IN DEED... AS WELL AS NAME!

AND, ONCE AGAIN... THE ARMS OF SIF ARE THINE ALONE!

FOR SUCH REWARD, MY HEART IS GRATEFUL!



AND NOW, BY MIGHTY MJOLNAR, MINE ENCHANTED HAMMER, DO I PLEDGE...

BUT WAIT!! WHAT HATH BEFALLEN!

THINE HAMMER!! IT IS GONE!



EVIL LOKI!

NONE BUT HE POSSESSES THE SORGERY... OR THE SKILL!

THE BATTLE THEN... HATH JUST BEGUN!

NEXT: RETURN TO EARTH!

SPECIAL BONUS:

*The Mighty Thor #141 unused cover art
by Jack Kirby & Vince Colletta*



The Mighty Thor #144 unused cover pencils
by Jack Kirby



*The Mighty Thor #148 cover as originally illustrated
by Jack Kirby & Vince Colletta*



June 1967's "Marvel Bullpen Bulletins" featuring the letter from Mark Evanier that launched many a Marvelite on the quest for "FFF"—that's Fearless Front Facer—status

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

MORE MIXED-UP MADNESS FROM MARVEL'S MIGHTY MASTERS OF MYSTICISM, MAGNIFICENCE, AND MISINFORMATION!

ITEM: Even though all the details aren't in yet, this one is too hot to keep under wraps any longer! It's what you've all been demanding—a full half-hour TV show for each of Marvel's top mags: The fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR, and the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! And dig this—both shows will be phantasmagorically presented over the ABC network, in full animation and colossal color! Yep, you heard it right! The F.F. starring in their own spectacular show—and Spidey starring in his own tintinnabulating thriller—both coming your way this fall! Watch this page for more exciting info in the ishes to come—we'll fill you in on who's producing 'em, what type of stories will be used, the exact date and time, etc. But, in the meanwhile, who SAYS this isn't the Marvel Age of World Take-Over!

ITEM: We've just gotta tell you this! The whole batty Bullpen is bustin' with pride over the way our mags are being received overseas in the United Kingdom! Affable Al Wallace, talented editor of Odhams Press, publishers of SMASH, WHAM, and POW, three of England's most famous and best-selling weekly comics mags, jetted in from London recently just to wrap up a deal with Marvel whereby world-famous Odhams will become our showcase in the United Kingdom, featuring all the best of our super-hero epics! (And, as every True Believer knows, we've only got the best—there isn't any worst!) So, a swingin' salute to our pal Al and all our block-bustin' British boosters! Glad to have you aboard, guys!

ITEM: This one's really gonna knock you outta your tree! You know all the zillions of no-prizes we've been tossing around for years? Well, since a no-prize is really just that—a no prize—many of our time-honored winners have asked how they can prove to posterity that they've ever actually won one! Therefore, from now on, every winner of what has become the most coveted non-award in history will receive a little something to prove he's really won! What is it? You'll find out, tiger—soon as you win one!

ITEM: Remember the ruggedly realistic artwork of Jolly JOHN SEVERIN when he illustrated some of the earlier Agent of Shield strips? Well, Johnny's returning to the fold once more, after having finally seen the light! Can you guess which strip he'll soon be doing? No, it won't be Shield this time—Jaunty JIM STERANKO is doing such a magnificent job writing and drawing the saga of Nick Fury's friendly little followers that we just can't bear the thought of switching him to another strip. However, we do have a mag which has been drawn by the same Marvel master for a few years now, and ol' Sev will soon be taking it over, since Darlin' DICK AYERS seems to have an unexpected hit on his hands with the surprise sensation of the year—none other than the mysterious GHOST RIDER! Also, didja notice that Groovy GARY FRIEDRICH is now writing SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING WHATCHAMACALLEMS, having replaced Rascally ROY THOMAS, who's become almost as busy as our leader lately,

Gary should do a great job on Fury's fanatics, having listened to so many war yarns from his dad, and so many exaggerated exploits from Stan himself. By the way, don't worry too much about Rollickin' Roy—he's got enough work to keep him off the streets these days, what with authoring AVENGERS, X-MEN, SUB-MARINER, and excuse notes for Honest Irv! (He claims that Smiley gives him the hard ones to write, while he keeps the easier ones for himself!—Yeah, the "easy" ones—like SPIDEY, THOR, FANTASTIC FOUR, DAREDEVIL, etc.! Hoo Booy!)

STAN'S SOAPBOXI

While we're waiting for your letters telling what you'd like us to editorialize about, we thought you'd get a charge out of this note which we just received:

Dear Bullpen: Enough! I have sat idle too long! I have watched the MMS turn into disorganized chaos. (And that's the worst kind!) As a solution, I suggest we have some officers. By buying his first Marvel mag, a fan is automatically entitled to the rank of RFO (Real Frantic One). His first published letter elevates him to QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer). A no-prize raises him to TB (True Believer). Each additional no-prize raises one level: From JHC (Junior Howling Commando) to RH (Resident Hulk) to AAT (Associate Assistant Thing) and finally to the penultimate, the utmost status a fan can attain: MM (Marvelite Maximus)! Naturally, the artists all have the rank of DDD (Definitely Dizzy Doodlers), the editorial assistants are IPR (Illiterate Proof-Readers), art associates are VOD (Victims of Doodlers), the letters are IWP (Indefatigable Word Placers), and Stan himself is at the summit—MEO (Marvel's Earthbound Odin). Each person would use his title at the start of his name—as I've done. (Signed—) RFO Mark Evanier, 10418 Tennessee Ave., Los Angeles, Cal. 90064.

Y'know something, gang—we kinda dig Mark's idea. Let us know how it hits you and maybe we can really get the thing rolling! Fair 'nuff?

THE WRAP-UP: Looks as though we were more long-winded than usual this ish—which means we've like run out of the space needed to give you additional scoop about this summer's coming King-Size Specials! But, don't despair, dauntless one... just hoard your next six two-bit pieces—try not to squander them on luxuries like food and clothing—and we'll clue you in on our Specials next ish! Till then, hang loose, heroes—the good times are just beginning! ('Nuff said!)

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #64: Once again, the fabulous FF introduces a titanic threat that ushers in a strange, alien danger, giving us a hint of the maddening menace to come, as we meet—the Sentry!

SPIDER-MAN #50: None of the world's deadliest villains have been able to end Spidey's glory-drenched career—but now it seems that the web-slinger himself may ring down the curtain!

AVENGERS #41: So you don't think there's any malevolent menace that'd stand a chance against the Avengers, now that Hercules is around? Well, don't look now—but here comes... Dragon Man!

DAREDEVIL #29: It's finally happened! In full view of the most dangerous gang of thugs in the city, DD is actually unmasked! It's for those who like their action fast and furious!

THOR #141: We could have called this one "The Mobster and the Monster!" but we didn't! We called it "The Wrath of Replicus!" instead—and you'll never forget the rampaging reason why!

STRANGE TALES #158: The story is called "Final Encounter"—but does that mean the destruction of Hydra—or of Nick Fury? Meanwhile, Doc Strange has his own hands full with the Living Tribunal!

SUSPENSE #91: A new invention! A new villain! A new surprise! All that, and Iron Man, too! As for Cap—see the end of his bludgeoning battle with the Red Skull in "The Last Defeat!"

ASTONISH #93: Namor faces a sub-oceanic showdown with IT, the Silent One! But, we shall say no more—we need say no more about the Hulk, except to say—he battles the Silver Surfer!

SGT. FURY #43: You'll come out of your bag when Fury's frenetic fighters hit the burning sands of Africa—and run smack-dab into the newest super-weapon in the arsenal of Rommel, the Desert Fox!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #9: The fabulous F.F.—Iron Man—The Hulk—Dr. Strangeland, as an extra bonus, the origin of the Watcher! No, no, don't thank us, frantic one—just buy a dozen! 'Nuff said!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #9: The origin of the original Human Torch—exactly as it first appeared! Plus, the Golden Age greatness of Cap and Subby—and three way-out wonder tales!

MARVEL TALES #9: Spidey—Thor—Torchy—and the Wasp! The biggest block-bustin' bargain this side of Honest Irv's Penny Arcade!

COMING SOON!

THE NEWEST BOMBSHELL SURPRISE FROM MIGHTY MARVEL—THE HOUSE OF IDEAS!

FACE FRONT! WATCH FOR THE MADDEST MAGAZINE OF ALL!

WHO SAYS A COMIC BOOK HAS TO BE GOOD??
NOT BRAND ECHH

BIOGRAPHIES

STAN LEE

Stanley Lieber was born in New York City in 1922, the oldest son of Jewish immigrants from Romania. Upon an early graduation from high school, Stan was thrust into the post-Depression wartime economy. Through family connections, he was able to land a job with Martin Goodman's comic-book publishing start-up, Timely Comics, as an assistant editor. His youthful aspiration was to one day write the "Great American Novel," so when his first professional writing job came, in the form of a humble two-page text story in *Captain America Comics* #3, he adopted a pseudonym: Stan Lee. This way, he could reserve his real name for that novel-to-be.

But the world of comics managed to keep Stan Lee constantly employed. His proficiency on the job got him the position of managing editor at an extremely young age. He graduated from simple text pieces to full-length stories in *All-Winners*, *USA Comics*, and other Timely anthologies. His tenure in the '50s saw him expand the company (now called Atlas Comics) output to include more genre experimentation, with westerns, war, horror and crime comics.

All this activity was a prelude to the Marvel Age of Comics, ushered in under the auspices of Stan Lee and a small stable of artists topped off by the formidable talents of Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko. Responding to Martin Goodman's challenge to do something to find a way to revitalize dwindling sales, Stan figured he would co-opt the successful superhero revival at competitor DC Comics and add his own magic to the mix: Instead of being perfect invulnerable champions, Stan's Marvel Age heroes would be normal, fallible, imperfect people, forced to cope with their newfound superhuman traits just like the average person might.

Stan's innovation sent shock waves through the comics industry, and within a few years, Marvelmania was taking hold: unlike other fads of the time, it wasn't letting go. Under his direction, creations like *Fantastic Four*, *Spider-Man*, *Iron Man*, *Thor*, *Doctor Strange* and *Incredible Hulk* flourished in the shared universe they inhabited. Stan developed the idea that these larger-than-life heroes would meet each other in crossovers from title to title, thus exploding the story possibilities for the kids who became eager fans.

In addition to bringing a new twist to the life of the super hero, Stan also brought the reader inside Marvel's "Batty Bullpen," creating a sense of camaraderie and special membership. His friendly and enthusiastic banter in letters pages, house ads, and Bullpen Bulletins brought Marvel Comics to a level of familiarity with their fans that had kids and college students proudly professing themselves to be "True Believers."

At one time, Stan wrote virtually every comic that appeared from Marvel during the 1960s. But when he was promoted to Publisher in 1971, his writing had to take a backseat, and by the mid-'70s, he semi-retired from scripting duties. Over the years, Stan has returned to write scripts for the odd single issue or series, focusing on Marvel's ventures into television and movie development. To this day, he remains Marvel Comics' single greatest ambassador to the world.

JACK KIRBY

Jacob Kurtzberg was born in 1917 into a gritty upbringing on the streets of New York's Lower East Side. It would be many years before he would adopt the more familiar name of Jack Kirby, but his experiences on the street would help inform the work that later made him a legend. Unlike many of his rough-and-tumble peers, his imagination inspired him to look beyond the commonality of everyday life. He was inclined at an early age to pursue drawing, and he was also a guy who wanted to "get things done." This hard work ethic and ambition took him places most men of humble stations like him would never dream of going.

After some early strip work helped get his name out to prospective employers, a fateful meeting with artist Joe Simon connected the two at the hip, and vaulted both of them into comics prominence. Together, they developed *Captain America* for Timely Comics, and Jack immediately helped redefine what comics could be with his innovative page designs and proportion-exploding panels.

Soon, Simon & Kirby were working with National Publications, turning out hit kid-gang comics like *Newsboy Legion* and *Boy Commandos*, as well as super-hero fare like *Sandman* and *Manhunter*. Like many of his peers, he served honorably in WWII, with combat duties that took him through the European theater.

In the '50s, Jack returned to comics, helping establish the romance genre with its first title, *Young Romance Comics*. More genre work followed for Timely/Atlas, with a prolific output that covered western, war, and monster genres. When it came time to launch the Marvel Age of Comics, Jack brought his dynamic layouts, unparalleled bombast and unbridled creativity to the fore in books like *Fantastic Four*, *Avengers*, *X-Men*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Thor*, leaving his unmistakable stamp on the characters he created.

The King's way of doing things was so popular that it set the tone for many of Stan Lee's editorial decisions throughout the '60s; before they were entrusted with taking over completely, new artists were often assimilated onto books by drawing over Jack's layouts. Jack left Marvel for DC in 1970, this time handling the scripting chores as well as the art duties. Jack's "Fourth World" books, along with *Kamandi*, *OMAC* and *The Demon*, were just a few of the highlights of his tenure at DC before returning to Marvel in the '70s to lend his unbridled imagination to a new cast of creations: *The Eternals*, *Devil Dinosaur*, and *Machine Man*. In addition, he returned to the pages of *Captain America*, the character he had first made famous 35 years previously.

Jack continued creating comics throughout the '90s until passing away in 1994, a creative giant for whom the word "legend" may be too small a title.

